



EDITOR: Dan Grabel

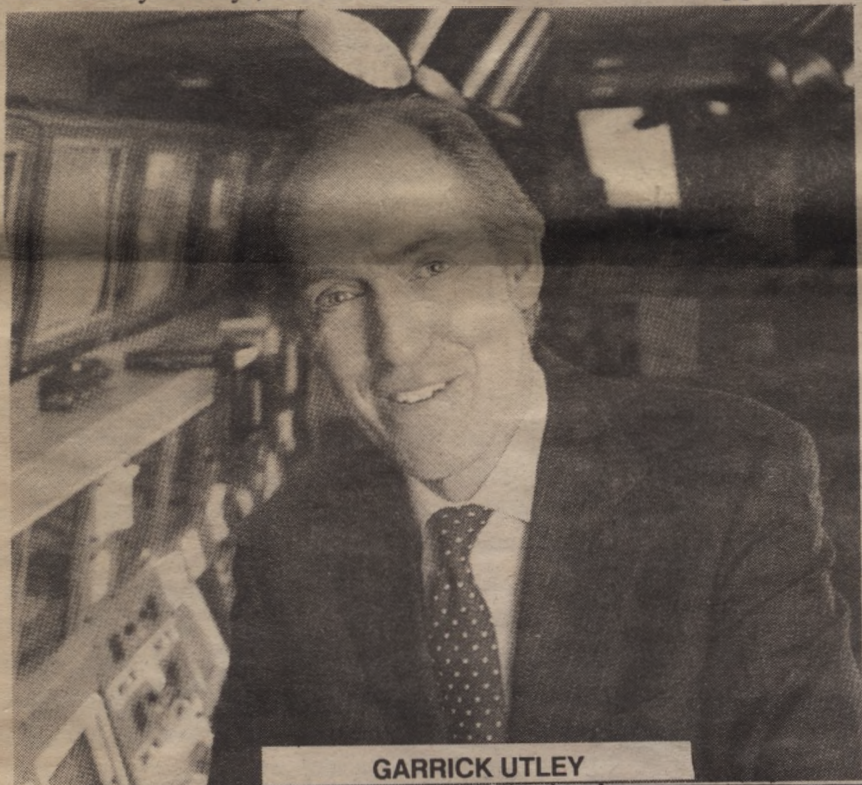
November 1991 Edition

PUBLISHER: Heino Ripp

## P.N. People

**HOPE SHINKOFF** ranks (probably) as NBC's second longest-working employee, clocking 48 years before her retirement from Advertising and Promotion. (We know that one lady in Chicago toiled for the net for half of a century, besting Hope by two years. Hope began in the days when there was a Red and Blue network in 1943, and Niles Trammel was the big man at 30 Rock. In Wartime, she served in the Navy, and she sang on the radio. She says the most exciting part of her career was her involvement in prepping NBC's ads for the Apollo and Gemini spaceshots...

**GARRICK UTLEY** was recently honored by readers of the Washington Journalism Review as TV's Best Foreign Correspondent. Garrick, who joined NBC News as a foreign correspondent in 1963, is the network's chief correspondent, anchor of "Sunday Today", the network's weekend --- cont'd pg 2.



GARRICK UTLEY

## N.B.C. 25 Yr. Club Date Changed



ARIANE MAUTNER

**Ariane Mautner**, Administrator Employee Services, called PN in Sept to let us know that the NBC 25 year Club has again changed the **location** of the prestigious Bash, and the **date** also has been changed.

**New Time: 6pm - 9pm**

**New Date: Thurs November 21**

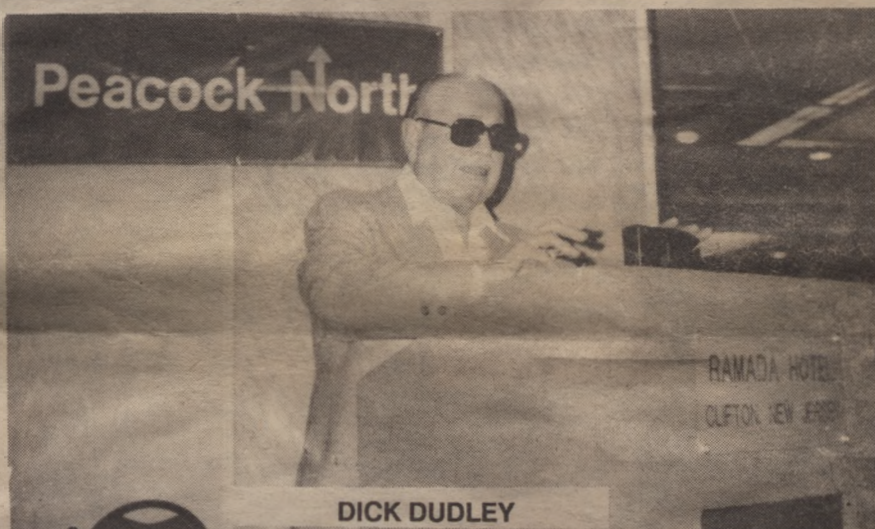
**New Place: The Tower Suite in Time and Life Building at 1271 Sixth Ave. at 50th St. Cont'd Pg 6.**

## OKTOBERFEST

### PN's Ninth Major Event is Another Retiree Smash!

by Dan Grabel

Peacock North's **OKTOBERFEST** on Sunday, October 20th was just that, a fest - a gourmand's supply of delicious food for the stomach and a raconteur's fest for memories. Retirees and spouses/companions filled the ballroom at the Ramada Inn on Route 3 in Clifton, New Jersey, which was surprisingly easy for motorists to reach from everywhere. (Although one announcer, initials D.D., somehow took a wrong turn and went through Pomona in Rockland County before he finally pulled into the Ramada parking lot near Giant Stadium).



DICK DUDLEY

Pete Peterson PN's C.E.O. and treasurer greeted the smiling, mostly sun-tanned group of men and women who were continually running into old chums and faces they recognized but could not always identify.

President Frank DeRienzo spoke briefly and reminded the throng that he, like the others, probably spent more time with the fellow workers at 30 Rock than he did with his wife Marie in Summit, N.J. Frank congratulated Arthur Garv and spouse Gail on their 48th anniversary, and invited PN Pg 3.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

1. N.B.C. 25 Year Club.  
Thurs. Nov. 21, 1991
2. PN Mini Lunch at Picco Lissimo  
Tues. December 10, 1991
3. PN Mini Lunch at Picco Lissimo  
Tues, February 4, 1992
4. PN Mini Lunch at Picco Lissimo  
Tues. April 7, 1992
5. Planned get together at  
La Maganette..  
Tentative date: Sunday May 17, 1992



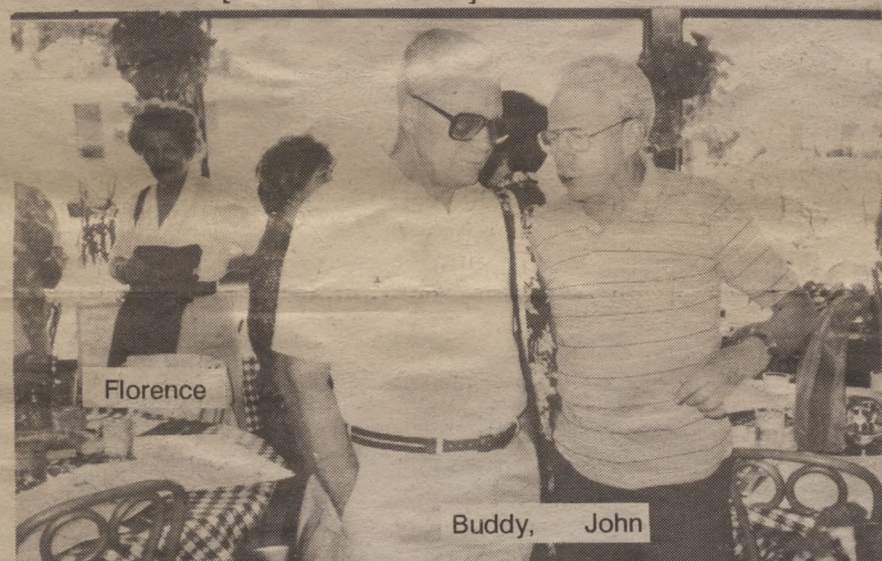
## PEOPLE

edition of Nightly and also the moderator of Meet the Press. He speaks Russian, French and German, was the net's 1st man in Vietnam and covered the 1973 war in the Middle East. At one time, his wife Gertje noted that Garrick was away from home 70 percent of the year. Last year he *only* visited the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, Berlin and the Middle East. Garrick is not a member of PN yet, but we're saving a niche for him when he's ready.....

Every second person you speak to says they've been to Santa Fe, New Mexico or are going there. **ALAN POSAGE (L.D.)** is going there for Christmas and New Years to visit his daughter and family.

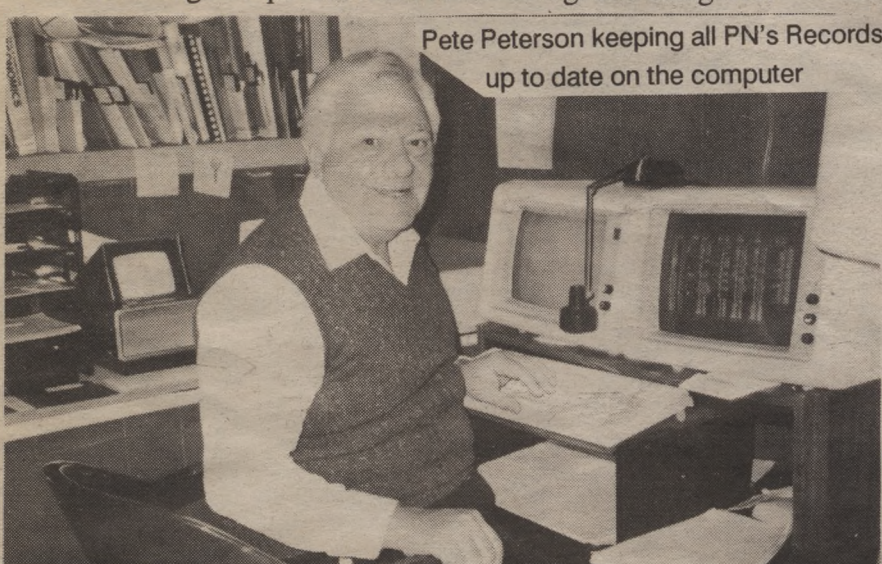
Former newsman **JACK KLEIN**, now at Newsday, has joined PN. He worked in New York and for a while in the Far East as a news producer.

**JACK DOLAN's** two sons are at sea...professionally. Son John makes frequent Atlantic crossings as a crewman on the Sealand Value, a container ship. Son James holds the rank of Master, aboard the USNS Rigel which saw duty in the Mediterranean earlier this year. (Jack, you're the one who should be doing the travelling, you're the one who's retired.) Below Jack [on right] recalling a Carson "Tonight" Show joke to Buddy Shadel at Picco Lissimo. In bkgnd is Florence Ring contemplating her recent decision [later in PEOPLE]



**LARRY JOHNSON** is keeping he airlines solvent. Earlier this year he visited London and Paris, stopped by his apartment in Riverdale to do the Laundry, and then went up to his home in Cape Cod.

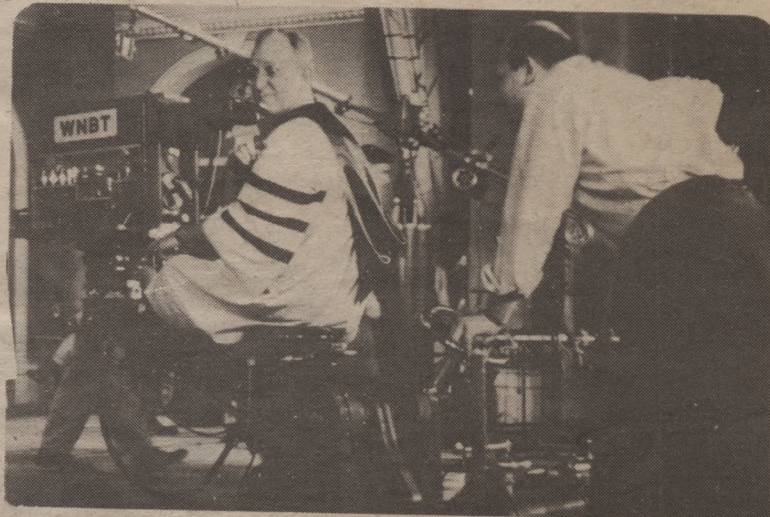
**PEG** and **PETE PETERSON** celebrated two blessed events this spring. Pete got a new Volvo 740 (He's PN's treasurer, Hmmm) and their daughter provided them with a grand daughter.



Pete Peterson keeping all PN's Records up to date on the computer

**CHARLIE** and **DORIS TESSER** identify themselves as "professional grandparents" since they have eleven, count'em ...e l e v e n grandchildren !! Was nice to see you at Picco

**EDDIE BAND** says he'd like to hear from his old PN buddies... During the summer Ed had a mini reunion at Greenwood lake with **HANK GERLING**, **MAHLON FOX** and **VINNIE KANE** and spouses. Hank has a place on the Lake... Now here's what you call in-depth travel. [From Jerry Cudlip's album Eddie dollying Kay Kayser on Camera 1. at the International Theater



**BILL** and **DOROTHEA DeLANOY** completed a 2,350 mile trip up and down the length of California. Those Frequent Flyer points didn't hurt. Now they can settle down to the serious business of being occasional caretakers of new granddaughter Clare...

**MARGE McGLYNN** kept on hearing about the Florida Retirees Assn. and paid a visit there just to see if she could remember all the names at the fun affair....



Marge, Liz Cahil and Joan Gifford, (bott.)-Larry Glacy + Mrs. ...in case you forgot the names....

Ladies in White: **MAUREEN POTRATO** says she's hoping all the PN crowd is watching their cholesterol. And she sends a "Hello" to Carolyn Stuve, RN, who is still toiling..

**FRANK VIERLING's** summer report sounds like a letter home from a boy scout camp with comments such as "Tomatoes are filling out, beans have flowers and beets and carrots are getting big. We've been to three of our five summer theaters and soon will be going to our fourth. Weather hot. Thank God for the lake. Had lunch with **ART** and **DOT HOLUB**. Spouse **LOIS** is looking forward to her 50th high school reunion." Yes, a taste of good life Down East in Maine. Down East? Seems like up North to me.

**JIM** and **GLORIA REINA** are selling their house in L.A. and moving into a condo. Gloria, he reminds us is **GLORIA CROMWELL** one of the early color test pattern girls. She has resumed her acting career for the past several years and is doing → Pge 4.



# OKTOBERFEST cont'd fm pge 1.

members to attend the **March 24/25** event, that **Walt Vetter** of the **NBC Florida Retirees** group is arranging at the **Clarion Plaza Hotel** in Orlando. The hotel tab is a modest \$60. a night. [ For more details, contact Walt at 407:286-2946. Hank Folkerts tells me that this price would hold for up to 7 days stay. So take a flight down & visit !]

This was Peacock North's ninth major get-together since its inception four years ago following an NBC going-away event for **Pete Peterson**. The membership is over 500. Sixty members have passed away in those four years, but retirees are constantly discovering PN, so membership has remained constant of late.

PN Newsletter editor **Dan Grabel** made his customary plea for gossip and travel reports from the membership to keep this paper chock full of news. And Newsletter Publisher **Heino Ripp** took a rostrum view photo of the audience remarking that we always have pix of the same speakers so needed to give the audience a shot.[view from the podium]



(Even tho the 1st shot was tried with a closed lens cap). Ripp requested you-all to keep sending in photos and news stories to help keep this a fat (and entertaining) paper.

Pete noted that the sunshine committee, an old NABET tradition, still exists at PN, but its now a one man job and done very well by **Frank Vierling**.(address/phone P27.)

If you wanted to keep your weight up, this was the event to do it for you. Non-stop fressing began at 11:30 am: coffee, bagels and cheeses galore. The champagne started to flow through the jets a little later, and just about when the first course was devoured, the salads, fruits, eggs benedict, crepes, hot seafood, Dover sole, and beef orientale reached the buffet tables. Retirees were not far behind.

When Pete returned to the rostrum he announced the names of one dozen long distance travellers who came to N.J. from far off points, including: **Marian Eiskamp**, Greenville, Tenn., Gladys and Joe Kolb, Hillsville, Va. **Marjorie Shields**, Boca Raton, Fl. **Wayne Howell**, Pompano Beach, Fl., **Roger Tuttle**, Wilmington, N.C. and from Pennsylvania, **Marcel Thienpont**, **Jack Durkin**, **Dick Dudley** and **John Lough** from Brewster, Mass.. As they say in testimonials, the list goes on and on.

Peterson also announced a slight dues increase to cover costs, up to \$20. a year. AND to make the bookeeping easier for wife **Peg**, please tear out the form in this newsletter (cause your label is on other side) and send it along with your dues when you make your payment. If you have a nickname, include that.

Pete surmises that with **Vinnie di Pietro** and **Bob Hanna** both on the west coast, we might soon expect a third group

of retirees forming into Peacock West. He also disclosed that the 25 year club get together date was changed. See article on Pg 1. It was strongly suggested that all PN members wear their P. N. buttons. If you don't have one, ask Pete. For those who can't wait for another retirees gathering, The next **MINI LUNCH** at Picco Lissimo in Fort Lee, N.J. will be Tuesday, December 3rd. at 12:30ish. Finally, Pete thanked wife **Peg** for her constant contribution of time and effort to keep the organization going. "We are alive and strong and must remain that way", said Peterson.

Percentage wise, The announcers again were the strongest contingent amongst the retirees. They included (and the list that follows is not in order of billing, just the way the Editor noted their presence) **Don Blair**, **Vic Roby**, **Don Pardo**, **Arthur Gary**, **Roger Tuttle**, **Wayne Howell**, and **Dick Dudley**. Their table, of course was the one where most off the story telling was done. But Tuttle, Howell, Blair and Dudley, did relate some rib-tickling lines, just like they used to warm up studio audiences.

**Dudley** was the guest speaker of the day and briefly related his life in radio/tv, starting at WSM, Nashville as a sound effects man

at age 15, and moving to New York in 1938.

Engineer **Herb Oxman**, who went from NBC to RCA, accepted Peterson's offer of the microphone to any loquacious guest. Herb said "We are all family, and I'm glad to be a part of it." Amen !

Amateur Radio operators among the membership were asked to send in a photo to Ripp, taken in their shack and showing their rig. NBC Hams regularly meet on their shortwave radios on two frequencies. (See details elsewhere in the Newsletter.)

After the time out from eating, the food gorging resumed at 3:30 with coffee and pumpkin and mince pie. Thanks to the Petersons, everyone went home with a small pumpkin.





well out there in sunny Cal. Jim says she just taped a "Golden Girls" episode and he thinks **KEN TAMBURRI** was the TD.

We received a page out of the Hollywood Reporter listing Ken as a nominee for yes, the Golden Girls, which his dad Orlando, [or just "O."] had been the TD and I believe Ken was then a cameraman. Also The "Reporter" lists Ken as a nominee for "Empty Nest/The last Temptation of Laverne", again as the TD. Same genes I guess, congratulations!

**JERRY CUDLIPP** still doing what he does best, loafing! Otherwise he and spouse **NANCY** just returned from Istanbul in Turkey, which he liked very much because it was very different, unusual and fun to mosey around. On way home, they stopped in to Budapest, Hungary then Salzburg for a bit of Mozart, ending with Vienna. The latter cities he didn't care for, for they were just cities, whereas Istanbul (ne Constantinople). Besides that he's busy with some small real estate ventures, a retired men's club as Social Events Director, and he's a big D-I-Y man (Do it Yourself). Otherwise he just loafs. Pictured below is Jerry with Ann Francis in the 50's during a Kay Kayser rehearsal.



Jerry Cudlipp and Ann Francis

During the summertime gathering at Picco Lissimo, **BOB HANNA** telephoned the bunch at the Ft. Lee Restaurant to wish **VINCE** and **MARIE DIPIETRO** good luck on their move to California.



Top: Gene Martin. Buddy Shadel. Vince, Marie DiPietro. H. Ripp  
Center: Vince, Gari Iorio, Marie with Special Cake, by Pete  
Bott: Vinny with Plaque w/peacock and inscribed with Best Wishes from PN created by Gene Martin. Do enjoy Calif you two

**JIM BLANEY** is giving up commuting to Florida for good! He is moving there in October.

When **GEORGE COX** takes to the outdoors, it's serious business. He likes to hike along trails in the Shawangunk mountains of eastern New York.

**KATHY VUKOVITCH** fills her retirement days with an occasional visit to PN's mini lunches at Picco Lissimo, and concerts and ballet theater. Kathy is involved in occasional TV projects. Went to London last summer with an assignment. Below Blaney, Geo Cox, Kathy and schmoozing before lunch at Picco



Jim Blaney, Geo Cox, Kathy Vukovitch,

ESTHER WEINSTEIN

**ESTHER WEINSTEIN** and her husband **BEN** are thoroughly involved in ballroom dancing, Elder-hostelling and their grandchildren. "We've just experienced our 1st Elderhostel trip. It was most enjoyable and we look forward to the next one. (Ed's note: For those interested, the Elderhostel operation is headquartered on Boylston Street in Boston, and they'll send you a big packet of info free. We do not have the exact address).

**JACKIE** and **FRED FAVANT** paid a visit to Great Britain and they too have a new granddaughter. Fred was elected chairman of Cable channel 35 in Bronxville, and he and spouse are active volunteers at St. Lawrence hospital in Bronxville. Hey, Fred that's a heck of a lot better than being a patient there, which I recall you also tried.

More travels. **JIM** and **FLORENCE SUNDER** spent a week in London and came home on the Concorde. (As I understand it they don't even show a movie since the trip is so short they hardly have time to pamper you and feed you in deluxe style. Tell me about it).. (P.S.- Jim and Florence met each other in Hong Kong. P.S again, speaking of Hong Kong -Your publisher and Christina took an endless flight to H.K. this summer. Jotted some notes elsewhere in Newsletter.

All that London talk reminds me that your editor and spouse **PAT** visited London and Kenya this past summer. It was **DAN'S** 33rd visit ETO and since Pat is British she's made forty Atlantic crossings in the past 40 years.

Now the serious stuff. **DOC POTTER** is proud of his 128 pin bowling average and he says he has knocked down 12,000 pins during his kegling career. In golf, Doc has finally managed to break into the 90's (is that for 9 or 18 holes, Doc?) He marked his 76th birthday recently, and I don't believe he has grown any more hair on that billiard ball!! No offense intended, Doc.

**BILL** and **DEE GOETZ** have spent some time at their time-share in St. Maarten in the Caribbean and then toured the midwest, visiting their children and grandchildren in Dearborn, Mich. and Cambridge, Ohio. Bill does an occasional camera job and worked this years Tony Awards Show [PN's Walter Miller directing]. Bill reports he has finally decided to do something he has always wanted to do since he was a teen-



Correspondent **Art Kent** [no, not the one-time news VP/correspondent or Nabert's former prexy] but the handsome reporter who got fan mail while covering Iraqi Scuds landing in Israel and Saudi Arabia, sat in for Bryant Gumbel on "Today". He got mixed reviews as a morning man.... **Johnny Carson** finally set the date of his departure, May 1992, and then **Jay Leno** will be in five nights a week. Hey, 30 years isn't a bad run for the king of late night...[Carson's 39 year old son Richard was killed when his car went over a 124 foot embankment at the beach community of Cayucos, northwest of L.A.]....

All three nets are planning a new look for the 1992 political conventions. Gavel-to-gavel goes into the history books. **Bill Wheatley**, NBC's director of political coverage has said, "There's a feeling that the conventions are becoming largely a public relations vehicle for the parties. While there are certain important events, such as acceptance speeches, the immediate news value has been declining".

NBC will have a joint operation with PBS' MacNeil/Lehrer report". Should be like old times for PBS executive producer **Les Crystal**, who once headed NBC's political coverage, and, of course, was News Dept. President. PBS coverage will begin at 8 pm and utilize NBC correspondents until NBC begins its own coverage at 9:30 or 10 pm. **Tom Brokaw** will share anchor duties with MacNeil and Lehrer during the PBS air-time and then handle anchoring solo when NBC goes on. The idea is to save bucks, and it will. Those viewers who insist on suffering the gavel to gavel boredom probably will get their fill on CNN or C-Span. In 1988 the nets spent 14-million each for the conventions. Well, for PN members there are plenty of memories. Your editor's date back to 1948 in Philly....

Since our last issue, "TODAY'S" **Katie Couric** has had her pregnancy leave and returned the mother of a baby girl. One TV columnist reported that the net asked Katie to grow her hair longer for a more feminine look, but she rejected the suggestion. Reported Katie, "I declare the 90's the decade of the plain chick !...."

Weatherman **Al Roker's** wife **Alice** is town clerk of Yorktown in Westchester and will be seeking her second term in November. She was once an NBC producer-writer....

Former N.Y. Giants coach **Bill Parcells** is now behind an NBC microphone for the NFL season....

In an unusual move, the company announced a \$25,000 contribution to a charity medical fund for Alfred Jermaine Ewell, a Long Island high school football star who suffered serious injury in a racial attack. NBC denied the money was in return for an exclusive interview with Ewell's mother. Nightly News' loquacious executive producer, **Steve Friedman** has replaced **David Browning** as boss of the **Jane Pauley** show "Real People". Steve also retains the Nightly job....

NBC Sports President **Dick Ebersol** and exec producer **Terry O'Neil** will share exec producer credits on NBC's coverage of the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

**Bob Costas**, the late night sports man, will be prime time host for the net. **Dick Enberg** and **Katie Couric** will co-host the morning coverage from Barcelona.

Correspondent **Rick Davis** came home from London to become National Correspondent on "Today", a job held by **Katie Couric** until she moved in **Deborah Norville's** "Today" host spot.

NBC News now has pared its offices down to nine domestic bureaus and 13 overseas. Correspondent **Fred Briggs** and **Bill Theodore** still hold down the fort in Boston. The net will use freelance camera staff there, as it does in Dallas and Denver. NBC has closed its Frankfurt bureau and the original person staff is now down to two. London, which had 60 staffers also cut back a "handful". In 1990 NBC shuttered its Beirut bureau which had been staffed by eight Lebanese. They got the word on Telex.

For overseas coverage, the net will look more to Visnews, headquartered in London. NBC owns 38 percent of that operation. In days past, the biggies at 30 Rock did not rate Visnews quality very highly.

All six members of the NY Publicity photo section will be axed. This summer 112 employees of corporation communications department on both coasts were offered buyouts. A similar offer was made to 80 personnel dept. employees, all part of a reported effort to pare another 10 percent from the workforce. When the cutbacks were disclosed, NBC president **Bob Wright** denied stories that NBC, now down to about 5,000 employees, was reducing staff to make the net attractive to a buyer.

The San Francisco bureau was closed earlier this year and others might be shuttered, according to industry reports. As of January 1st. the net will end program transmissions from Burbank and move that operation to New York, a switch that is easy in this day of satellites. The move will make 75 engineers, managers and clerks redundant but the net is hoping to place them elsewhere, it is said.....

BUT it isn't all bad news from the 6th floor [if that's where the command post is still located]. Four NBC station general managers have been promoted from vice president to president, including **William Moll** in N.Y., **Pat Wallace** in Chicago, **John Rohrbeck** in L.A., and **Allan Horlick** in Washington. **Dick Lobo** in Miami and **Roger Ogden** in Denver got similar treatment earlier this year...

Remember the 25 year watch NBC kindly provided when you reached that anniversary ? [my Bulova still works] NBC went the extra mile for **Tom Brokaw** and bought his gift watch at Tiffany's. Net Prexy **Bob Wright** described Tom as "NBC's single most important person".

Entertainment Weekly, the magazine, did a wide-ranging poll recently and Brokaw finished third when people named their favorite anchor. The respondents also said they ranked NBC fourth when they tuned in a network at crisis time.

Producer **Steve Friedman** [he gets more editorial space than the Peacock] was quoted recently by a tv columnist and said he wants Brokaw to have a "new set", or on-air "environment" that would convey a feeling of a communications center. Steve would like more live elements in the broadcast...

Former News President and producer **Reuven Frank** has written a book on the industry, "Out of Thin Air". {details elsewhere in the newsletter}. Reuven was the John Peter Zenger lecturer in June at Princeton. The talk is presented annually and is named for the revolutionary era New York printer whose 1735 trial established that truth is a defense in libel cases. Zenger printed, but did not write, a criticism of the governor of New York prior to an upcoming election and the authorities decided to teach him a lesson. That backfired and eventually we got the Bill of Rights, which included freedom of the press, after the U.S. became an independent nation. To mark the 200th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights, NBC Ham operators interested in getting a special QSL card from the Bill of Rights Museum ...cont'd Pge 10.



## The Book - Three Blind Mice

Pge 6.

by Ken Auletta

This heavyweight book, 62 pages, can be summed up in the headlines reviewers wrote to describe it, "See How They Ran", (in Time magazine) and "The Twilight of the Networks," (in Wall St. Journal).

Auletta had a ringside seat at the highest levels of the three networks, actually having breakfast with Laurence Tisch when Tisch opened the N Y Times to discover Dan Rather had written a letter to the paper attacking news dept. cutbacks ! It's that kind of stuff. The billionaire reacted with full emotion, the kind of emoting you'd expect on a soaper.

No one escapes Auletta's gaze. And here we borrow from some of the reviews we read: Tisch of CBS, a white knight turned Darth Vader, more comic than cruel and a financial wizard who never fired anybody until he came to CBS. Also a man with "no strategic vision and few management skills". GE's Jack Welch, easily the book's most complex and compelling character... And Tom Murphy of ABC/Cap Cities, the "hero" of this tome, with a no-frills style but humane and with more broadcast savvy (well it should be that way since Murphy was a success in broadcasting long before he bought ABC).

The Journal said, "the book's fascination and fun lie in the details". For example the story behind the downfall of NBC News Prexy Larry Grossman. Larry gave a dinner party the night of the sixth game of a Mets-Red Sox World Series game. Welch is a rabid Red Sox fan and wanted to watch the game ! Grrrrr. Auletta notes that Bob Wright, the NBC pres and ex GE-er once suggested that stars like Bill Cosby and Don Johnson be used as hosts of News documentaries. (While that struck Auletta as inane, that kind of casting has been done quite a few times by independent producers for docs shown on non-network outlets.)

Auletta tells of the battle between creative ABC news prexy Roone Arledge and ABC entertainment boss Brandon Stoddard for a 10 pm programming spot. Arledge pressing for a Barbara Walters show and Stoddard backing a Dolly Parton epic. As Auletta sees it, it was a tiff over two different forms of rite, celebrity-centered TV".

While one reviewer said some of the stories from the 1980s would be ideal for Trivial Pursuit but not so important to today's media problems, this is, after all, a history, mostly of the 18 month period when NBC, ABC, and CBS were acquired by "larger, tougher, and smarter" corporate owners. (How much smarter, we think, is yet to be proved since they may have slain the golden geese. The bottom line will prove that one way or another)

(Daily News TV reporter Elizabeth Jensen did a column during Auletta's national publicity tour and noted that "Today " booked him as guest before the book came out. After it came out, Auletta's appearance was cancelled. "Today" said it regularly books and un-books guests depending on their news value. However, he did appear on CNBC cable and WNBC's "Live at Five". Both the CBS and ABC morning shows decided not to invite him).

## 25 Year Club Date Changed

Ms. Mautner indicated the changes were necessary because the Rock Center Christmas Tree lighting date, traditionally on Mondays, was changed from the original Bash date of Tues Dec 3. to November 21.

Second, 8H availability was in question. Considering the chaos at ~~BCA~~ G.E. Building on tree lighting day, it was decided better to change everything.

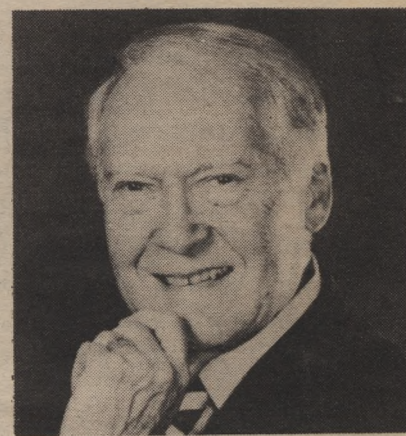
**The time: 6pm -9pm. Date: Nov.Thurs. November 21, Place: Time & Life Bldg.**

In the same Phone conversation, Ariane announced that she was retiring at the end of the year, after forty years at 30 Rock. We all wish her the best with much appreciation, for even tho we had left, she kept our intrests alive at our Alma Mater.

*Happy Holidays from PN*

## The Editor Speaks

### Notch Talk...



Dan Gabel

If you were born between 1917 and 1926 you are probably well aware of the move to rectify alleged Social Security inequities which resulted from the legislation in 1977 when Congress enacted a new SS benefit program. You'll recall the social Security fund seemed to be in difficulty and Congress created a new payout formula that was supposed to be gradual in its transition. The "Notch" affects 12 million Americans who receive benefit checks smaller than those born before or after them. [That sounds like an inequity to me !] The shortage can be \$1,000 a year, the amount most PN members aren't getting. The gripe for the "Notch" people is that the reductions were not gradual and they were greater than expected.

For a number of years one retirees organization, "The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare," has been pursuing a program to rectify the short change. The AARP does not seem to take much notice of it. And of course, there are some, possibly including Illinois Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, the powerful House Ways and Means committee chairman, who deny there is any equity.

Some 239 members of the House are co-sponsoring a bill to correct what we'll call an inequity. That's 55 percent. In the Senate only 33 co-sponsors were on board in early fall. While the optimist count, especially with a national election next year, don't start spending the extra bucks because until all the big movers and shakers in Congress are on board it's still a "bill" and not "legislation" ! Sen. Henry Reid (D.Nevada), who is still behind the bill, says "It's the 1st. time in history that we've come this far in eliminating the "Notch".

The National Committee has a Washington phone number, the Senior Flash, providing updated information. The toll call number is 202:-822-9187.



## PEOPLE

-ager. What's that ? Bill has signed up to take "Beginning Tap Dancing" at SUNY in Purchase, NY. And we're all invited to his first recital. (Hey bill, Have I news for you. About ten years ago, Dan Grabel and Spouse Pat did the same thing, and Fred Astaire, or the memory of Fred, does not have to worry. Still got the shoes, but "won't dance, don't ask me."



Irene Proner, Billy Goetz, Vinny diPietro, Arnie Proner  
Enjoying moments at "Vinny's Sendoff to California" party.

**TONY and NANCY NELLE**, New Jerseyans never miss a Picco lunch there at Fort Lee. Tony says he's fulfilled one of life's ambitions. He's received the Saddle River Power Squadron's Educational Achievement Award, certifying that he has completed all of the squadron's boating courses. Tony was also elected commander of the squadron, which has 145 members. Okay, so should we put him on the Exxon Valdez? [See Story behind the picture re: Tony in Korea, elsewhere].

**MORTY and MILLIE ARONOFF** spent part of June at an Elderhostel in Chapel Hill, NC, did Gelsenkirchen in Germany after that, and celebrated Bastille Day with the French in Paris in July where their son Andy and spouse Helen live. (Nice to have an out of town place to hang your hat. Especially if out of town is Paris). Morty, who did so much to assist troubled NBCers while he was at the net, deserves the best of health and he continues to report that his prostate cancer is no more. He travelled extensively for what some might call unorthodox treatment in his quest for good health. So will 120 years be enough? Could Millie put up with it ?

**FLORENCE RING** has taken the plunge. No, not matrimony. She's signed up for Jack LaLanne to get rid of some ugly fat, "even if it kills me... and it just might!" (Hang in there Florence and pump that iron like Schwarzenegger)

Our correspondent down there in Ten-Ten-Tennessee, **MARIAN EISKAMP** flew off to the Canadian Rockies in July. "I've been wanting for years to see Lake Louise, ever since Nelson Eddy serenaded Jeanette MacDonald. Never got over the Indian Love Call. I'm taking a one week Elderhostel course (seems like half of PN is taking them). I have friends in Calgary so I am going to the Stampede. Can't believe my good fortune that the Stampede is there when I arrive, so I'm looking forward to it all". Marian is on the Board of Directors of East Tennessee State University's Institute of Continued Learning. She is also the programming Chairlady, so she keeps busy trying to find teachers for courses.

Unfortunately our printing of this issue will be too late to publicize a west coast gathering but we'd certainly like to hear from anyone who attends the 9th annual NBC reunion at the Presidio in San Francisco on Sunday, October 5th. The reunion committee includes **BUDD HEYDE, JANE MORRISON, DEL BOUBVEL, ED BRADY, JACK VAN WART, DAVE AMARAL, VIRGINIA AGUILAR** and **JO COSMO NIX ARNOW**. Local phone there is 415: 516-7916 tnx to **VIC ROBY** for the info.

Capsule profile: **JOHN CHANCELLOR** (but didn't we call him "Jack" in 1960?) describing the late **DOUG KIKER**, "Stubborn as a mule. Smart as a whip!"

Pge 7.

Newsman **JIM ALDRICH**, longtime producer of News Program Service and its successor Affiliated News Service before they got deep sixed, has finally pulled up stakes from Forest Hills and has joined he move to sunny Florida. He now has a splendid view of the intercoastal waterway in Ft. Lauderdale. Jim "does" Fire Island in the summer so it's water to water. **DON KIVEL** writes from Seweckley, Pa. "Keep up the good work. My wife and I will graduate from seminary (the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Anbridge, Pa.) in May 1992 and will be involved in lay ministries in the church.

Announcer **FRED COLLINS** continues to keep busy with voice-overs, but the market for talent is getting slimmer and slimmer. Fred feels that radio is being rediscovered. He too is looking forward to satisfying that travel bug. However he still enjoys working, and, says Fred "that's good because I sure can't get the hang of golf". (Hey Fred, most of us can't. Some days I throw away the score card and figure I'll just complete the 18 holes as an educational exercise. (Hey Doc Potter, maybe your 90 isn't so bad either, even if it is for 9 holes, it's better than my card.)

## Animal Crackers

Seen on a T-Shirt & worth repeating)  
There are only four animals a woman needs in her life.

A MINK to put on her back.  
A TIGER to put in her bed.  
A JAGUAR to put in her garage. And  
A JACKASS to take care of her bills  
and pay for the first 3 animals!

## Enid Roth:

## EMMY Winner



Enid Roth recently won a New York Area Emmy Award for producing and directing "For Peace sake: Youth Speaks Out, a prime time WNBC-TV one hour special. The Emmy was awarded for Outstanding Programming for Young People.. Congratulation !



# UNCLE MILTIE



"Somebody has to keep the comedy torch burning. There's not many of us left — Hope, Burns, myself," Milton Berle, 83, reflected before his Just for Laughs fest appearances.

## At 83, comic Berle is still fast with a quip

In July in Montreal, there is a Comedy festival, "Juste Pour Rire" -(Just For Laughs). I've been going there yearly to T.D. a live Gala on Showtime. In the dress, Milton Berle was placed in the middle of the show. He got such a rousing acclaim, that producers, The Kaminsky Bros. put him as the finale on the air show; to a standing ovation. Berle put on a terrific show. He hasn't lost any of his timing, nor giving advice. All that was missing, was his whistle. [Heino]



Fred Silverman and Jane Pfeiffer honored these employees for loooooong service [Jan 7, 1980] with a special breakfast.

**Back Row:** George Black - Exec VP, Robert Tobin, Edna Suzuki, Edward Yesek, Robert Barnaby, John Griffin, Stas Pyka, Fitzgerald Smith, Samuel Feld, Frances Olsen, Richard Auerbach, Robert Bader, Patricia Donegan, Anthony Block, Frank McGuinness, Marilyn Jacobs, Thomas Gorman, Andrew de Sherbinin and Jay Miller.

**Seated:** Dave Teitelbaum, Geraldine Stonebridge, Raymond O'Connell, NBC Pres. Fred Silverman, Board Chairman Jane Pfeiffer, Richard Dudley, Arthur Gary and Stanford Levy... Photo Courtesy of Dick Dudley [in front row, at NBC since early, early 1940's].





No it's not a post card: It is real - the skyline of a very modern city in the Orient, **HONG KONG**, with yours truly in the f.g., AND a typhoon racing toward us. We left Two days later, and the typhoon veered off.

## A Short Stay in The Orient

"Lei Ho Wa" Chinese equivalent of How are You?.

Lei = you; Ho = good; Wa = signifies a question mark: One Ho is good, Ho Ho is more good and Ho H Ho is real good ! Wonder what "Ding Ho" meant ? Very much in the news, is China's take-over in 1997. A Hong Kong billionaire (builder of the building that looks like a lit cigarette standing on end) started financing a super highway from China to H.K. with his own money while trying to get a Swiss group's to finance it. He managed to get two lanes built, then the events at Tianamin Sq. caused everyone to drop any thought of financing. Finally a year later he did manage to find financial backing from the world community since the immediacy of the brutal attack had died down.

As I stood on a hill in "The New Territories" section of H.K., you could see massive building going on in China of the Highway and bridge. Currently there is an old road into China. It's closed after 5 pm. Many truck drivers in line at closing time, wait all night in line until the road re-opens in the morning.

Many business people are moving offices to Macau (Portuguese). Many are apprehensive. They fear that their jobs will be replaced by the Chinese who work at a much cheaper rate, even tho China has agreed that nothing will change for 45 years.

Many residents are refugees from the recent turmoils of the surrounding countries, some living on boats unable to get into gov't housing. (some crowding the anchorages with barges, junks -all kinds of craft, at the prestigious Hong Kong Yacht Club, frequented by Prince Charles). These boat people fear having again to find a place to live.

We boated through this harbour, [surrounded by fancy new high rise apartment buildings] and my heart goes out to them, living under those conditions; many never going ashore at all.

Hong Kong itself looks very up to date. You could see many examples of this. They have their own version of the "Lincoln Tunnel" which connects the Fowloon part of H.K. with the main Hong Kong Island jammed with traffic just as in N.Y.C. Electronic controls for the TV/ air-conditioning/ lights in your room/ modern air conditioned subway system/ very clean tho/ a clicking sound system on the traffic lights system so blind pedestrians can tell when to cross as in Sweden/ all new taxi cabs with

radios and electronic digital readouts. If a cab or auto doesn't pass inspection, it is junked.

As in most Oriental cities, (although Singapore has TV ads to *promote* having children), H.K.'s very populous. Government high-rises are everywhere, but 6-8 persons live in a single room in many cases if they were fortunate in obtaining an apt..

Food-wise, it was very expensive. We were cautioned in eating Chinese food, for they didn't think our stomachs could take it, and bottled water was suggested.

Our one glimpse of China's mainland took us from H.K. at 7 am to a hydrofoil, which skimmed rather rapidly to a town called She Kou { pronounced shay koo }. Enroute we zig zagged through a very large and loaded Hong Kong harbor, with many ships from all over being unloaded and loaded. I thought we were travelling quite fast, when, as we neared China, a huge new gleaming white Chinese hydrofoil zoomed past us like we were standing still. Very impressive !

After immigration etc. we were introduced to our "Chinese Tour Director" - our own was not allowed to continue. He looked like Leon Dobbin and spoke English like a U.S. native. Name was "Jack", lived and schooled in San Francisco... Yes, trapped in our bus with a propaganda machine, trying to impress upon us that China was a wonderful democratic place that the people had much freedom etc; yet a Swiss financier wasn't allowed to read his Hong Kong newspaper while on tour.. Temperature outside, 95 plus.

She Kou town was started 5 years ago from total scratch. Today they have high-rises, an international airport under construction, a museum, NO churches Jack said because no one wanted any. Those who left Northern China to live and work here in She Kou, I gathered, received some incentives for moving into the sticks to live and work. As "Jack" droned on, we wended our way through dusty roads, highways under constructions, hordes of people, traffic jams, farmlands full of growing produce, ( Much of the fruits and veggies, Peking Ducks, and pork found in Hong Kong comes daily from China.) I have a foto of a man with a pig's carcass draped over the rear wheel of his motorcycle, racing through clouds of highway dust, delivering it probably to an unrefrigerated outdoor sidewalk meat

market. (which was typical)

We lunched at a special dining room at the main Hotel in Guang something. A bit leery to go hog wild, I ate carefully at first, but the food seemed like that served in "Ding Ho's", we all ate lots. Wasn't too keen on getting sick then taking a 14 hr flight (to San Fran), then immediately going to Montreal for a week, for "Just for Laughs" live TV Special on Showtime... Didn't get sick!

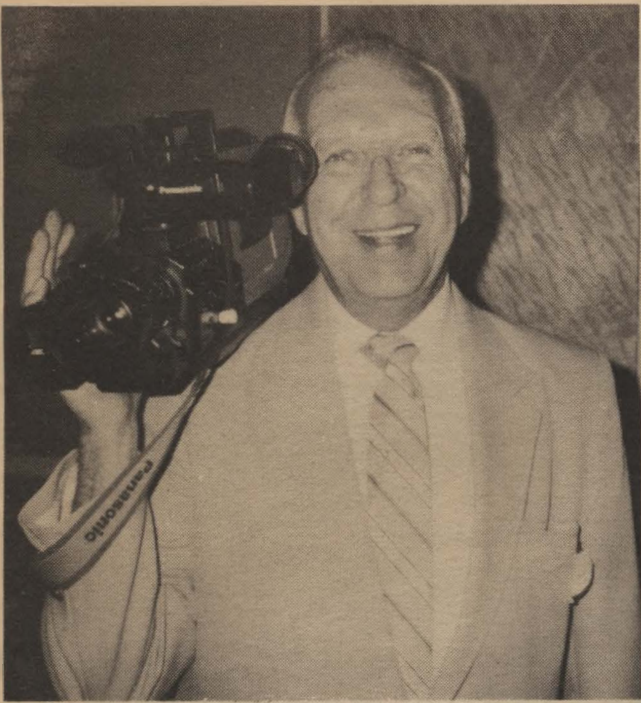
In Canton (Guangzhou now,) our propaganda drone that Canton was originally founded by dissidents, gangsters, misfits sent there; for it was way South far away from Peking. [couldn't we send our convicted killers somewhere like that?] they explained the Cantonese always were an independent sort, never agreeing with the central government, and having ways of their own. Everyone applauded. One highlight was stopping at the zoo to see their famous panda. The temp was ab't 98. As we approached the dirty Panda, it curled up snoozed, then never moved almost totally hidden from view...

Seeing the large theater which was a memorial to Dr. Sun Yat Sen, (founder of the modern China) with his statue in front brought my high school history class to life. I was surprised that the Mau gov't had let it stand.

We stopped at the New China Hotel in Canton for a much needed rest stop. This indeed looked like a very modern Hyatt Hotel. It was built using "venture capitol", which they are desperately trying to entice. Even bought some tasty pastry to munch on.

Driving or walking thru the streets, it felt like Times Square on New Years Eve. People everywhere. No wonder they have a 1 child per family rule. (But even this rule has exceptions: like the rich can pay the penalty for having more children and some farmers have special dispensation etc.) We drove through a street that was the size of our single lane streets, two way traffic, bicycles up to your kazoo, pedestrians all over: Ya Ha ! Yet people seemed happy. Eager to please store keepers were happy to see us for the Hong Kong Dollars which was allowed as currency. Back to Hong Kong on a 2.5 hr express train. - was clean, air conditioned, and rather pleasant ride thru the dark countryside. I wouldn't want to live there. Don't think I'll come back to Hong Kong, the Great Wall, maybe, but I'm glad I came... Heino





JACK DURKIN



Deborah Norville

How do super stars react to getting bounced from a cushy, big bucks assignment? Few of them make introspective comments, but Deborah Norville did when columnist James Brady wrote a brief profile for Parade Magazine. Said 33 year old Deborah, "What happened at the "Today" Show (and he death of my mother) were the two most difficult experiences of my life. I was devastated, like being hit by a train at the crossing while I was looking the other way. I was hurt by what people said. These were my brothers and sisters at "Today," and suddenly they were saying things which hurt. But I'm a survivor. I'm a tough cookie. This was hurtful, but it was a growing experience".( Well everyone reading the PN Newsletter was either bought out or pushed out, so we can empathize with Debbie. Or in a nutshell, welcome to the club.) (Her husband is Estonian, and they had gone to Estonia . While there, Estonia declared their independence in Tallin during the great Soviet breakup. Perfect timing for a scoop. So maybe her luck is changing already..).

Pge 13.

[ Your Publisher is Estonian ! ]

## Jessica Savitch -

## Accident ? Or Was It Murder ? ?

The NY Post carried an eye catching headline in September, "JESSICA SAVITCH'S DEATH TIED TO VATICAN BANK SCANDAL". And the Post quoted operatives of an international detective agency, Unitel, asserting that the 38 year old "golden girl" of tv news dies, not in an accidental drowning in a creek in Pennsylvania, but as a murder victim !

They said she was marked because she had done one investigative story on Italian banker Roberto Calvi and was about to do a second story. The collapse of Calvi's bank in Milan cost the Vatican \$250-million. Unitel further asserted that Savitch "may have been getting too close to something someone didn't want made public".

Unitel is investigating the recent collapse of BCCI, the Bank of Credit and Commerce, for an undisclosed client but the NY Post did not explain how that tied in with Savitch's death eight years ago. Calvi's body was found hanging from a bridge the day after his secretary fell to her death.



JOHN LOUGH



PAT & ROGER TUTTLE

## Where They Are Now !

Jack Perkins	—	Arts & Ent. TV
Dich Schaap	—	ESPN, also seen recently on ABC-TV
Jack Cafferty	—	WYNY-(NY)
Bill Chesleigh	—	Monitor TV
Tom Cheatham	—	Monitor TV
Deborah Norville	—	ABC Radio
Jay Barbaree	—	Mutual Radio

(We're always searching to see where old cronies are, working or "leisuring", so if you know of any that we've missed, Please let us know

## Where Are They Now ?



Jessica Savitch



## Health Notes from Here & There

Vigorous exercise done several times a week can greatly increase the ability of older men's bodies to dissolve blood clots that can cause heart attacks (Sorry girls, this was a test of men only) The report comes from a journal of the American Heart Assn. and it was made in a test of only a small group of men, thirteen in all, ranging from 60 to 82 years. They exercised four to five times a week over a six-month period -- walking, jogging, cycling 45 minutes - and the results showed a 39 percent increase in their ability to dissolve blood clots.



JOE KOLB , building a convention

There is no sure formula for aging successfully, writes Dr. David Hamerman in Westchester 60 Plus. Genetic factors play a role, as those with long-lives parents and grandparents may attest. Advocates of successful aging (meaning merely that you live longer) emphasize the importance of factors that are usually under control, diet, exercise, ability to relax, smoking and use of alcohol. The call those "preventive strategies." But don't get too excited. Some geriatricians say the payoff is not necessarily an extension of the ultimate life span, but rather that illness will be postponed into one's very last years, so that life may be enjoyed more fully. Ah, but there's good news too! These experts, well let's call them specialists, say its never too late to change your ways, even those over 65 can switch to good health regimes and join the good guys. They say the body usually is adaptable to positive external influences. So, toss out the butts, cut back to a quart(?) a day, and refuse the second dessert. Okay Gang??.....

## " GOLDEN OLDIES "



ANDY SWITZER ED TAFFEE ? ? FIDELIS BLUNK JERRY CUDLIPP BILL DELANNOY  
As student engineers in 50's at WEAF transmitter (Jack Flynn Chief

*Happy Thanksgiving*



" GOLDEN OLDIES "

Fredrick L. Lights,  
stage manager  
and persona extraordinaire  
at an early political  
convention.



## Dick Dudley Teaser

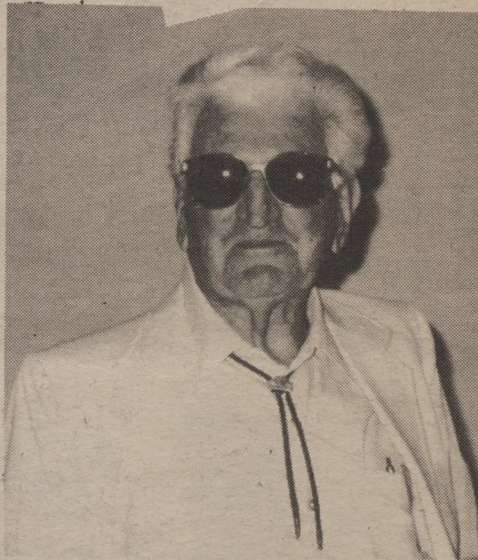
Pge 12.

From Dick Dudley who says this poser is not a piece of cake - It is cryptic and puny.... Fill in the blanks with the answers to the definitions and you will find that the first letters reading down, will give you the name of a former president... Answers on Pge 25.

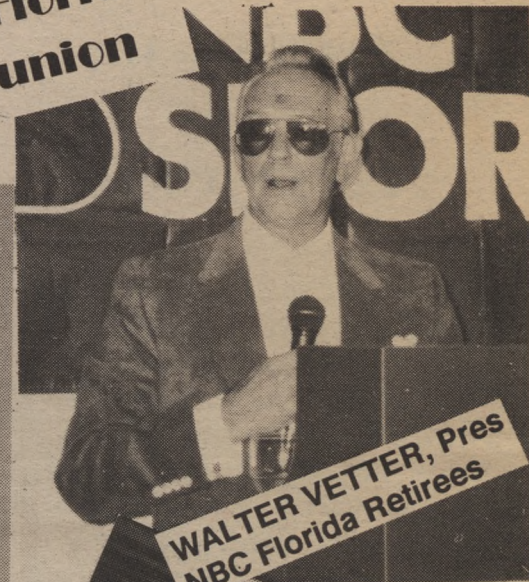
1. Fanny Rose ..... - - - - -
2. X + R + X ..... - - - - -  
[ or x + y + R + x + y = ]
3. He may sound stupid  
but he's really all  
there..... - - - - -
4. Nothing halfway about  
him as a wrestler... - - - - -
5. Early creative TV  
engineer who circulated  
easily..... - - - - -
6. What Gene Hamilton  
grows in his Arizona  
garden..... - - - - -
7. Sportswriter whose  
heart is not of  
Gold..... - - - - -
8. Probably the sewttest  
engineer ever..... - - - - -
9. Engineer always on a  
tear ..... - - - - -
10. Where were you on  
Oct.20th ? ..... - - - - -

11. This engineer would  
be musical if you  
sent him to the NE.. - - - - -
12. Where you might find  
R. Wolfe, M.Buck,  
W.Kidd and M.Fox ... - - - - -

## Seen at NBC Florida Retirees Reunion



HANK FOLKERTS



WALTER VETTER, Pres  
NBC Florida Retirees



MAE and JIM SMART



5H CONTROL ROOM - 1960's ??

L to R: FRED GOMMO, audio; DOC POTTER, Film TD; DON McDONOUGH, Assoc Dir; ROGER WOLF, A.D...

## New Members

C. Penny Fulton  
Bernard Gershen  
Joseph Iaricci  
John Libretto  
Walter Miller  
Sal Monaco  
Robert Newman  
Gil Perez  
Howard Reig  
Virginia Seipt

## FORTY METER HAM NET

WEDNESDAY  
10:30 am

W2SNM  
DAVE HUBBY  
as NET CONTROL

Call In And Say Hi !



in Mt. Vernon, can tune in the special station [W2IEI] that will operate from there from noon to 5pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday Dec 13,14,15. **Dan Grabel's** Westchester Amateur Radio Assn. will handle the calls on two frequencies [14.300 and 21.300]. Dan, N2FLR will be among those working the transceiver.

Old timers will remember NBC correspondent **Welles Hanger** who disappeared in Cambodia long ago. The State Dept. again is making inquiries about his demise.

Network execs sketched a proposal recently to the affils for an overnight news service following "Later with Bob Costas", and preceding "NBC News at Sunrise". The NBC News Channel operating out of Charlotte, N.C. would provide the material. Staff there now numbers 50 and News Channel prexy **Bob Horner** does not expect a "dramatic" expansion to staff to handle it. From the press reports, it will not be another "NBC News Overnight", the creative program hosted by **Linda Ellerbee** about a dozen years ago.

**Dr. Art Ulene**, a long time fixture on "Today", is now providing similar medical advice on "Home". Executive **Marty Ryan** and senior producer **Jacoba Atlas** made similar moves.

**Betty Furness**, who has been opening refrigerator doors in commercials and catching shady businessmen in dubious practices for lo these many years was away from her WNBC job battling cancer some months back. **Jane Hanson** filled in during her absence. Now Betty says she's feeling fine.

**Tom Brokaw's** "Nightly News" moved up half an hour, from 7 pm to 6:30 in September in New York and some other markets to compete with the network competition.

Robot cameras came to WNBC-TV in August for all local news and public affairs programs and is expected to save the O & O one million bucks a year. Eight cameramen were to be re-trained for other jobs. "Nightly" has used robots since 1988 and **Connie Chung** recalls the night she got bumped off her chair by a runaway robot. The robots are located in studio 6B and five of them will be able to wander around the cavernous space. [ "Nightly's" cameras are on tracks and so have limited movement. ] One T.D said audiences will be seeing a lot more wide shots rather than the tightly framed ones.

And now prime time is no longer prime time in San Francisco. KRON-TV, in a test, has changed its prime time to 7pm to 10pm instead of the traditional 8pm to 11pm.

[ We are greatly indebted to PN Newsman **Roy Silver** for his diligent press clipping service to provide us with much of the information in this column. ]

Here's more on NBC Newsmen and others, missing in Southeast Asia. Twenty-one years ago, 3 NBC and 5 CBS newsmen disappeared in the Cambodian jungle, and now the US Defense Department has agreed to dig up a site 40 miles south of the capital on Phnom Penh where NBC's **Welles Hanger** and others may have been shot and buried. That word from producer Art Lord, who covered the war in Vietnam. In all, 19 foreign journalists are still recorded as missing in S.E. Asia. Two foreign crewmen were with Hanger who was out in the boonies along the a CBS crew headed by correspondent **George Syversten** and producer **Jerry Miller**. Those three CBS men were killed when a grenade hit their jeep. Communist troops then surrounded the NBC Jeep and a second two-man CBS crew. Hanger and the other four were never seen again. The bodies of the 3 dead CBS men were recovered just after the incident. NBC correspondent **George Lewis** visited Cambodia in August and local officials agreed to cooperate....

Pentagon correspondent **Fred Francis** was first with a report that Pres. Bush was ready to flex U.S. muscles and send more troops back into Iraq to straighten out Saddam Hussein....

Among those laid off in September in the NY publicity office, **Matt Messina**, a 21 year veteran. One other PR person was axed in NY and 3 in LA but we have no other names....

**Magee Hickey** of WNBC-TV obviously had the inside edge on the reporting assignment when NYC's Child Development bureau in the Bronx opened up the **Lawrence Hickey Center**. Lawrence is her dad, whom Magee describes as a "neighborhood do-gooder". She and **Chuck Scarborough** hosted a benefit for the Center....

**Mary Alice Williams** ain't going nowhere! The former NBCer who switched to CNN and rose to VP and did a fantastic job in upgrading the fourth network's image before coming back to 30 Rock will remain at NBC. Mary Alice of the beautiful blue eyes co-anchors "Sunday Today". We recall a story years ago that someone among the brass though those blue peepers were too distracting and thought she should wear contact lenses with a less prominent hue!!!

Air-time prices..They are down. An Ad report noted that "The Cosby Show" in 1986 was charging \$400,000 for a 30 second spot. Bargain rates have arrived. You can now buy the same time for a mere \$200,000. Currently, "Cheers" is the most expensive show, with 30 second spots going for \$260,000. Okay, Mr. Announcer, talk F-A-S-T!

What with all the news research team just a memory, and library staff presumably down to just a few, the Nets, including NBC, have looked elsewhere for story diggers. NBC now has working arrangements with

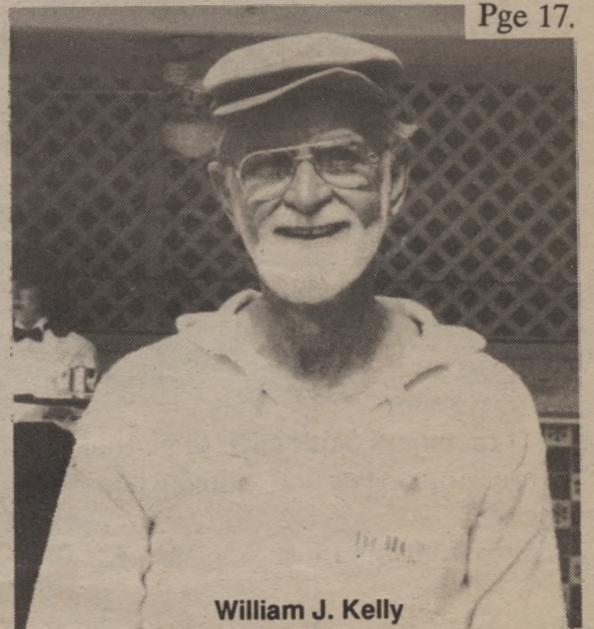
Newsweek, Family Circle, Glamour and Parents. The mags give their stories to the net two months ahead of publication time and they end up on a show called "Cover to Cover". NBC recently aired a weeklong series, "City Limits," on urban ills, based on research Newsweek did for a special section it published. Its good PR for the mags, and low cost for NBC. Of course, if a crisis comes up they may just buy the New York Times to get the latest facts.

Remember that room-ful of researchers on the fifth floor who used to create the Greensheet every week, providing leads to all the news shows? Memory fails me for the names, but one ended up as Mrs. Bill Wheatly, Didn't she?..

We've reported on stories that NBC is being sold elsewhere in this issue. Just came cross another so we'll drop it in here.

Columnist Dan Dorfman wrote in USA Today that billionaire Marvin Davis, who buys and sells huge corporations "left and right" might add NBC to his toy box. Reportedly, GE's investment banking subsidiary, Kidder, Peabody, aggressively has been seeking a buyer. One financial analyst has said it would be "in the ultimate best interest of GE" and could happen before the end of the year. GE bought RCA for Six Billion, but NBC itself could go for Five Billion, sez the analyst (Hmmm, would seem that GE got a real bargain in 1986, Who was watching the store up there in Executive country?) Dorfman also said that Davis would sell off more NBC assets and further scale-down the remaining bare bones...

Rich Berman, who was a producer for weekend "Nightly" took a buyout last April and is now freelancing on projects. Soon after news management decided to combine the staffs of daily and weekend Nightly, and the documentary/specials into one pool (do they still produce those at 30 Rock? Gosh, can you remember when producer Chet Hagen turned out maybe, 30 instant Specials a year for Gulf?" ↴



William J. Kelly  
At Fla. Bash



# Books About The Business

Pge 14.

## "Out Of Thin Air" by Reuven Frank

Here are some quotes from Bill Carter's review in the NY Times which, quite by coincidence, carried an in Memoriam noticed by Random House/ Ballantine Books for Doug Kiker adjacent to the review.

"Frank is usually wry or cranky. Both qualities are apparent in the books portentous subtitle, *"The Brief Wonderful Life of Newtork News"*, which openly suggest that network news is not only no longer "wonderful", but it is in fact dead...

This is an insider's history of network news and the approach can be refreshing, especially when compared with the egocentric memoirs of TV news reporters who describe their humble roots and how and why they covered the great events of our time. (Ed note: Books by Russell Baker and Charles Kuralt would fall in that category).

Reuven writes a passionate retelling of NBC's coverage of the explosive 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago when the cry "the whole world is watching" was believable, to the point where the White House began a campaign to undermine the impact of the network news divisions. And in 1964 when John Chancellor was forcefully ejected from the Republican Convention floor. Also, later the same summer at the Democratic convention when network superiors compelled Reuven to run home movies of the Lyndon Johnson family.

As producer and network news president he emphasized that the pictures are what distinguished TV news. He believes network news has lost that insight. As for himself, writes Carter, Reuven is commendably unself-congratulatory, and even pointing out his own monumental mistakes.

Frank notes, in this most absorbing account of his remarkable career that exceptionally good timing has often served him well. Like the time he and David Brinkley were in Berlin, on their way to producing a special about Vienna when they learned the Soviets had closed the border and had started building "the wall". (was that the Brinkley's Journal when we kept on hearing "mitt schlag"-plenty of whipped cream ?) Reuven also retells the story behind the award-winning doc in 1962, "the tunnel", in which 59 East Berliners dug their way to freedom under the wall. The State Dept. tried to keep the program off the air. Why ? Says Reuven, "we can only speculate".

Reuven makes some personal comments about several network biggies:

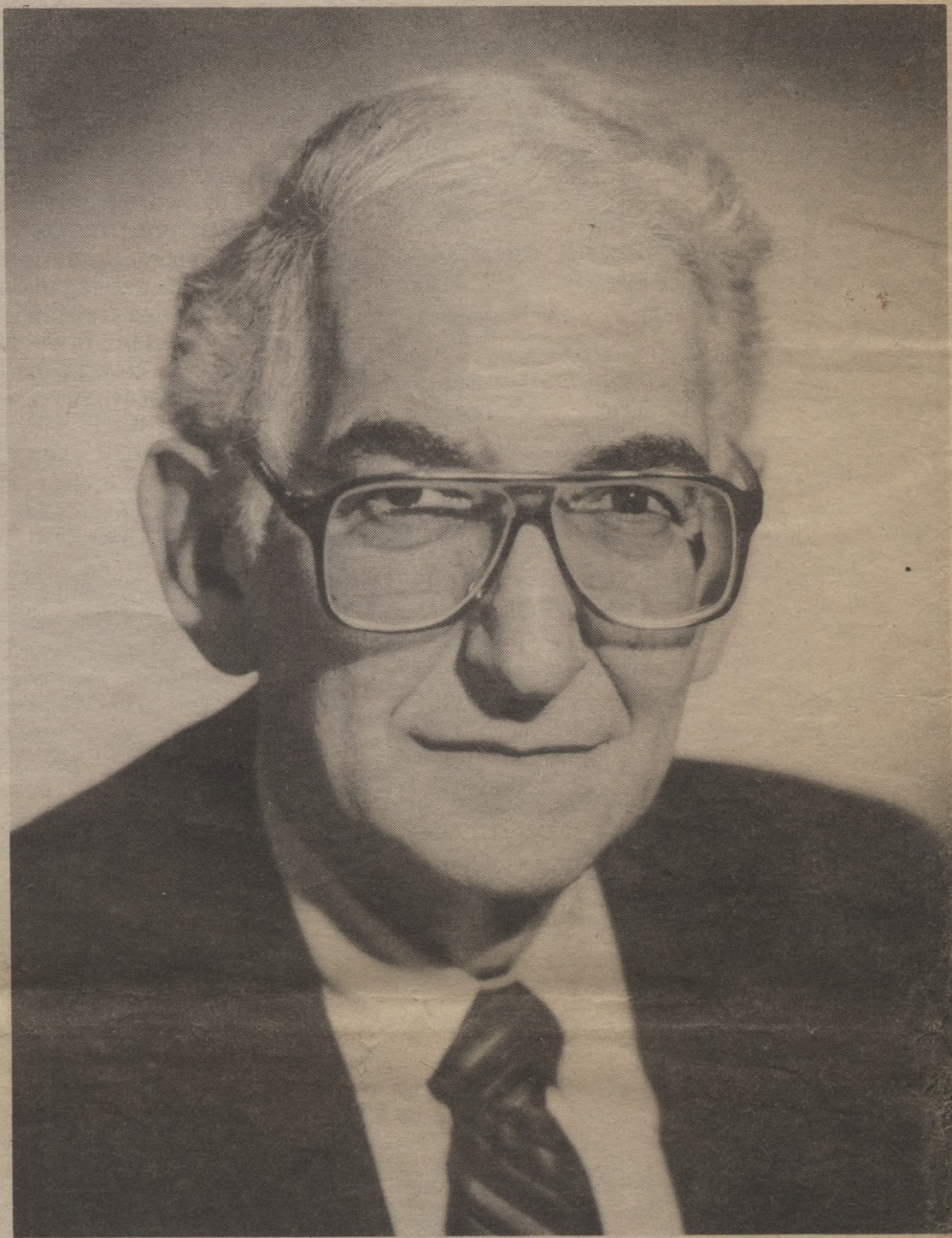
**Barry Wood**, once Pat Weaver's choice to be the man to shakeup the news division. Sez Reuven..."He was an aggressive vulgarian who thought people in the news put on airs".

**Michael Gartner**, current News Prexy. Sez Reuven, "He claimed to know everything about news and nothing about television, a position he has since adhered to".

**Bob Kintner**, one-time news president: "In his seven years as president he placed his stamp upon NBC as no other in my four decades at he network." He also described Kintner as "jowly, short-necked, slitted pale blue eyes, well tailored suit usually rumpled by 10 AM, an alcoholic, a bully, stubborn, impulsive, impatient, intolerant, quick-witted, hardworking and at least partly a genius".

PN members don't have to be told, but reviewer Bill Carter closes, "the book certainly captures what truly were the glory days of broadcast news and a time when life in America played out, in astonishingly exciting, occasionally chilling details, on the TV screen.

Published by Simon & Schuster. \$24.95



**Reuven Frank**

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah

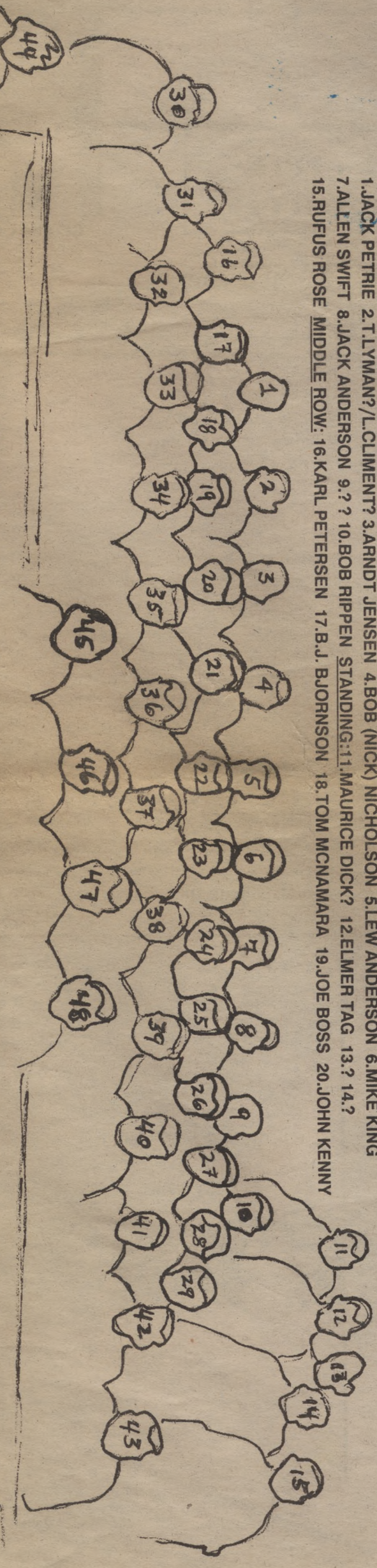


# Howdy Doody Cast & Crew Fall 1955



BACK ROW

1. JACK PETRIE 2. T. LYMAN? / L. CLIMENT? 3. ARNDT JENSEN 4. BOB (NICK) NICHOLSON 5. LEW ANDERSON 6. MIKE KING
7. ALLEN SWIFT 8. JACK ANDERSON 9. ? ? 10. BOB RIPPEN 11. MAURICE DICK? 12. ELMER TAG 13. ? 14. ?
15. RUFUS ROSE MIDDLE ROW: 16. KARL PETERSEN 17. B. J. BJORNSEN 18. TOM MCNAMARA 19. JOE BOSS 20. JOHN KENNY



21. RON RUBIN 22. NORM KAHN 23. AILEEN DALTON 24. ? ? 24. MARY EATON, 26. KITTY DALTON 27. ? 28. BARBARA HORN 29. EDNA PICARD
- FIRST ROW: 30. E. ROGER MUIR 31. MIKE GRAHAM 32. DOC WHIPPLE 33. NICK PONELLA 34. HARVEY BELAIR 35. BOB SMITH-HIMSELF
36. TOM SMILEY 37. BERNIE MORCHEN 38. HOWARD DAVIS 39. BILL LECORMEC 40. ? FRANK 41. GUS ROHRBACK 42. RUDY (L.D.) 43. WALT WERNER
- FRONT ROW: 44. BOB HULTGREN 45. NEAL MCCARROL 46. BOB HOPKINS 47. FRANK MERKLEIN 48. ? ?

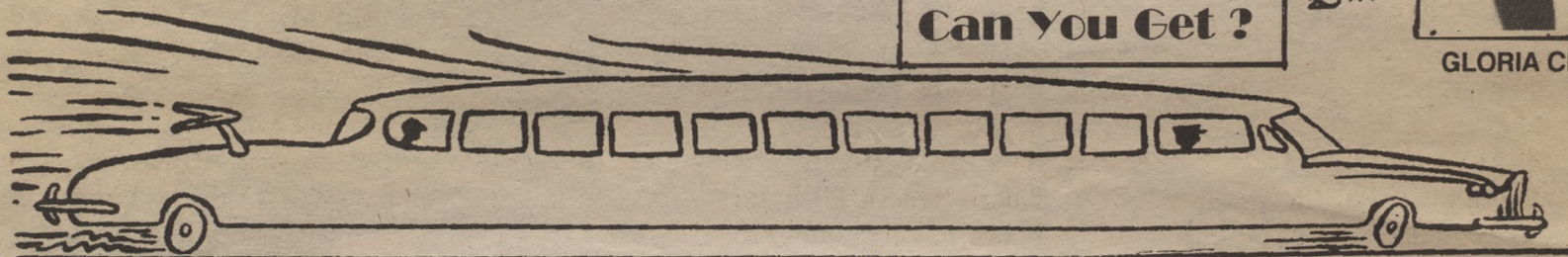


## Sketchbook

### How Lucky Can You Get ?



GLORIA CLYNE



[ Editors note: Gloria Clyne of the WNBC Betty Furness staff came to the company soon after Nipper and the General and she has been one of the unsung "bricks" who keep the News Dept. moving. Gloria always sees the humorous side of a situation and we can thank her for this amusing and happy story first reported in the Metropolitan Diary column of the New York Times.]

Dear Diary:

When our '79 Cadillac was stolen last month, husband Leonard and I felt we had lost a very dear and close friend. The car was no longer a raving beauty, having fallen prey to thieves who fancied its outer trim, but we knew that beneath its rough exterior there beat an engine of gold. Imagine our joy, then, when the police asked us to come to a precinct house and identify the car they believed to be ours.

We were grateful it hadn't been cannibalized in a "chop chop" shop, but very concerned when we learned it had been involved in a high speed chase through the streets of Brooklyn. We

prepared ourselves for the worst, but certainly not for what awaited us. We could hardly believe our eyes. On its hood was a brand new ornament where previously there had been none. Gleaming strips of metal enhanced heretofore rusty doors and the right front light, no longer smashed in, was perky and new once more.

In the trunk, empty of our possessions was a steering assembly complete with wheel and chrome ring, waiting to replace our old one. Not only that, but the thief had put in a new air conditioning system, replaced the automatic window cleaners, the oil

and radiator caps, radio knobs and some interior decor. He had tuned up the car, adjusted the brake pedal, tightened the power steering, as well as the seat belts. The car is driving so splendidly that we suspect he put in new shocks and springs. The police calculated that one more week in the hands of this thief and we would have had a new car.

I keep thinking there's an obligation on my part to send the thief - who has been apprehended - a box of cookies. But then my husband reminds me of who he is and what he took from us, and I settle for a sigh.. **GLORIA CLYNE**

## Social Security Notes

The Social Security Administration is re-writing or has re-written booklets explaining the major Social Security programs including those covering Retirement, Survivors, Disability, Medicare and Supplemental Security income. It is now publishing an all-purpose consumer guide titled "Understanding Social Security".

Retirees seeking information can call a toll free phone number, 1-800-2345-5772. If you use a push button phone, there are a number of services available quickly including request for a Personal Earnings and Benefit Statement, verification of the amount of your SS benefit, ordering the free booklets and general information. The 800 number works weekdays from 7am to 7pm.

## TAX TALK

Residents of Florida pay far less in State and local taxes than residents than any of the other nine states most popular with retirees according to a report in "Money". Washington, New York and California were the "most taxing", respectively, with California residents paying nearly twice as much as their counterparts in Florida. because Florida has no income tax requirements (but it does have a property tax, including tangibles like stocks and bonds), a couple living there on \$34,620 in annual income would pay \$1,634 in taxes. If they lived in California, the couple would pay \$3,718.

Hmm, might need some updating of that popular refrain, "Cal-a-for-nia here I come !"

## T. V. TRIVIA

Thanks to Russ Tornebene for this Trivia Item:

*What was the first use of videotape in a network news program ?*

TRIVIA ANS. on Pge 25.



Pete Peterson, Vince DiPietro, Gene Martin, Frank DeRienzo  
Festing at Picco, salivating over Vinnie's "going away" cake.

*Happy New Year*



The NY News Bureau closed in September, consolidating with other net news gathering operations. Among those who left: 27 year veteran correspondent Dick Valeriani... and ahhh, another gem from Producer Steve Friedman. He wants Tom Brokaw to go on the road, places like Tampa, Columbus and Cincinnati, in the style of Willard Scott, in presumption that will build an audience for "Nightly News". It used to be that producers thought changing the set attracted an audience. May we suggest more interesting news coverage? For lo these many years, producers have

## Memories: Off Camera.

by Jack Marshall

**David Brinkley:** "it (meaning TV) beats selling neckties at Macy's."

**President Kennedy:** "Mr. Marshall. I'll give you an argument on that point. Ted Williams was the best hitter of all time."

**John Forsythe:** "I'm not doing bad for someone who can't act, eh?"

These comments made to me will always stand out in my mind. As a TV director/writer, I have been very lucky to have worked with people in the public eye. Usually they're very careful not to say anything of a demeaning nature when the recorders are rolling. There are exceptions, as Pres Reagan can attest, when he was asked for a mike check and uttered "...We begin bombing Russia in five minutes."

One of my primary jobs was to make the talent feel at ease. It's necessary rapport. I maintain that anything said is "on the record" as long as it does not hurt others in a malicious way.

There is absolutely no pretense about David Brinkley. He always tells it like it is and let the chips fall where they may. David is honest and exacting. He demands the same in others. Brinkley had a stet salutation. "Good morning. What are we doing today? Well alright." When he left NBC for ABC, I wrote him a letter, congratulating him and stated all of the above. I also wrote that he had occasionally been a S.O.B. to work with over the course of 20 years. In his letter to me, he agreed on all points and added, "there are bright, talented people working in it [tv] including you". A nice plaudit from a master of our trade.

It was just another day, filming the return of V.P. Lyndon Johnson from his trip to India in 1963. While waiting in the Rose Garden for the helicopter to arrive, the president invited me into the Oval Office. He had been informed that I played professional baseball. Many get to shake the hand of the President of the U.S. To sit in his office and talk baseball is something else. Kennedy was a Red Sox fan. I was partial to the Mets. He knew all the statistics and talked about Doerr, Pesky and Williams.

We were in disagreement about the best hitter of all time, when Jacqueline Kennedy walked into the room. The Pres looked up, dismissed her with a wave

shipped anchormen off to the great foreign datelines only to have them standing in front of a famous landmark and do the same news they could do from New York with a boxed photo of the same site positioned over their shoulder ! Of course, they wouldn't be able to do a promo months later showing how our boy has been ever--reee--where....

More details on the new "NBC Nightside" which premieres Nov. 4th during the wee hours of the night. Sara James, an anchorwoman at the Charlotte, NC affiliate, will be one of several anchors to oversee the 4 and 1/2 hours of news that will originate in Charlotte. All we have

of the hand and said, "We're talking baseball". It was the quickest u-turn I have ever seen. Kennedy was informed that the helicopter was approaching and baseball talk ended. As the two of us walked toward the rose garden, he informed me that he and the Vice President would say a few words, as would Lady Bird. With a half wink, if we had enough film in the camera to record her speech. He continued, "when she talks you need an hour glass instead of a stop watch." A few months later he was gone from our lives.

John Forsythe of TV's "Dynasty" was one of the stars of NBC's production of **Teahouse of the August Moon**. John did a 60 second voice promo for the show and did it flawlessly on the first take. It was then that he admitted to one and all that he was not a very good actor, but wasn't doing too badly. He added, "I never thought of myself as handsome or even good looking, but I'm not about to argue. Dynasty isn't Shakespeare, but Forsythe has more than proved himself as a performer.

Sportscaster Curt Gowdy used to host the NBC Game of The Week. Every Tuesday he would arrive to record a promo spot. One week, we had a surprise for him. We turned out the lights in the announce booth and had a naked girl sit in Curt's chair. Gowdy arrived. I handed him the script and he headed for the booth. Curt stepped inside and turned on the reading lights. When he spied the lady his face dropped as did his script! Later he said, "I've been broadcasting for over 30 years and this is the first time I have been speechless."

To look like Paul Newman would get most men into a lot of trouble. He isn't handsome, but he is. No Rhodes scholar but intelligent enough to excel in many fields. His eyes and manner tell the entire story. They are more formidable.

Working with him when we were both in our early 20's, he said, "Thank God - a director my own age." He was playing the lead on the Philco Playhouse production of the Death of Billy The Kid. The action called for him to walk into a saloon and outdraw a local gunman. Newman practised drawing, shooting and reholstering the .45 for almost an hour. It had to be perfect. The filming went fine but for one thing.. It was too short and difficult to stretch for the full minute we needed. After many NG takes, Newman had an idea. "Keep the camera on me. We'll get the extra time without ruining the meaning." We did just that. After shooting the bad guy he walked over to the "corpse", put his boot

at this writing (well before Nov 4th) is that it will consist of packaged, anchored news shows. Since that is a lot to come from one source, we wonder if the packages might be produced by affils elsewhere, and repackaged in Charlotte. Well, if you have insomnia Nov 4th you can tune in...

Survivors at 30 Rock include: Cheryl Gould, senior producer of "Nightly", Rod Prince, weekend producer of "Nightly", plus midweek chores, Don Browne, executive VP, News, and Bob Mcfarland, formerly Browne's deputy news director, who was getting a new title when this column was written. Dan Grabel

under the body and unceremoniously rolled over the inert person on his back. What Newman didn't know was that the actor supposed to play the gunman didn't show up. I had pressed into service the V.P. of the agency which sponsored the program. Newman laughed but it was a nervous chuckle. How often do you "give the boot" to an agency VP ?

Ernie Kovacs was the greatest creative individual I have ever met or worked with. Ernie rarely laughed out loud. If he liked something he would nod and say, "Yeah. Oh yeah." That was the like a group of "yes men" laughing at the chairman's bad joke in the board room. I submitted a sketch to Ernie and met him for the first time in his office at CBS. Ernie, using his ever-present cigar as a baton, looked up at me and said, "I don't like jokes. You are a funny person. I mean you are inventive funny. You are funny".

Ernie loved to play poker. Poker didn't like Ernie. One morning after one of his all-night card klatches, I asked him how the evening had gone. "Not bad", was the answer, "we played at my apartment and I didn't need a ride home". Ernie had lost \$ 8,000. dollars. According to my recollection, that was one of Ernie's better nights.

Exhaustive personal research isn't always necessary when working with an actor. It certainly was needed in one instance when I was to direct Edward G. Robinson in a dramatic scene. I knew all about Mr. Robinson's successes on the screen, his whiny-growly voice which made mimics famous and quite a bit about his fabulous art collection. I thought his art collection would be a good ice breaker. Wrong! First of all, I entered his dressing room and was amazed to find him so short. I sat down to disguise six feet of director. I spoke 1st. "Mr. Robinson, I understand you own original Matisse, Van Gogh and Manet's". Edward G. sort of grunted and we went over the script. Only after the production had been completed did I learn that he had recently sold his entire art collection in order to settle a divorce proceeding.

Guess I'm a perennial student; I learned something from everybody. Art Carney taught me humility. Mickey Rooney gave me an insight to his photographic memory. Trevor Howard proved that it's impossible to work with a hangover. Team work and self-effacing nature came from Boris Karloff, Robert Preston and David Wayne. Coming to work fully prepared came from Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. *I'm still learning but look at the great head start I had.*



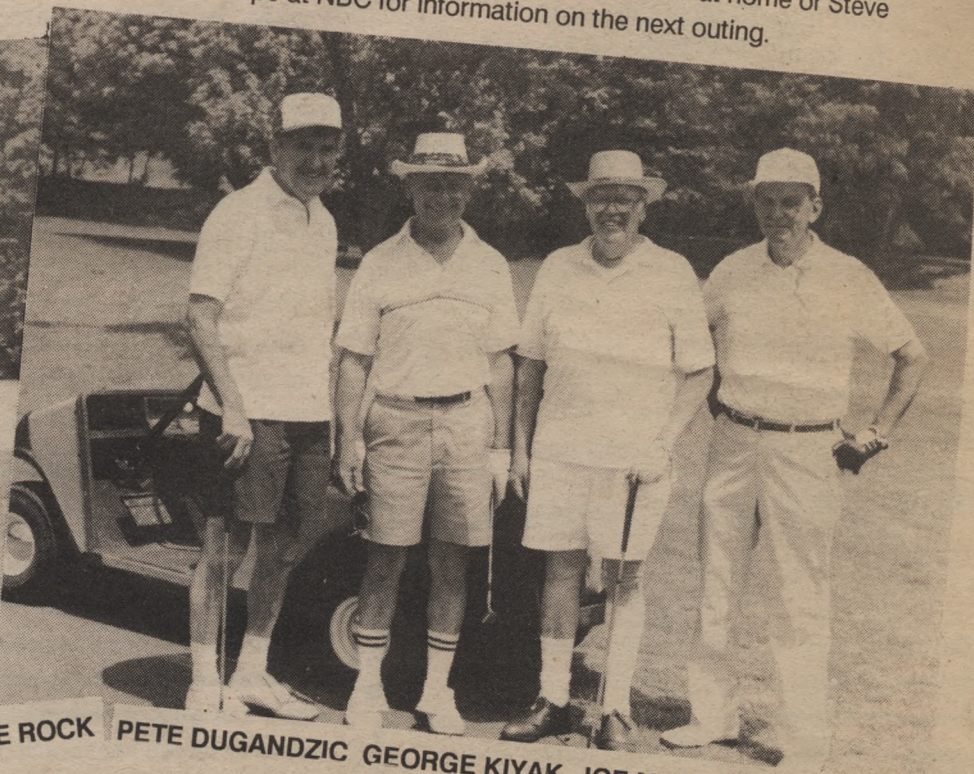
# P.N.ers Invited To Golf Outing

PNers are quite a gregarious group! This summer Steve Skorupka and his video tape friends organized a Golf Outing, which was attended by a goodly number of PN members - and by the smiles all had a great day, ate a lot, drank some, comeraderied and

incidentally played some golf. Next year Steve plans another. For those interested, PN golfers can call Gene Martin at home or Steve in Video Tape at NBC for information on the next outing.



JOHN THOMAS KATHY BABIAK STEVE SKORUPKA MELANIE ROCK



PETE DUGANDZIC GEORGE KIYAK JOE MERGNER VIC KIMM



PHIL HYMES ERNIE DEROSA FRANK GAETA GENE MARTIN



STEVE CIMINO JOHN OLZEWSKI

GOEFF AMORAL FABIO TOSCONO



RICH LEIBLE Jr.



RICK LEIBLE Sr.



FRANK CIARKOWSKI CATHY DONAHOE\* GINA CARUSO SUE DONAHOE\*

\* = Yes, Red's daughters!



## Report on Closed Circuit Promo Show

Ray Lockhart [NBC News Convention Producer] sends us a tongue in cheek report, sketched during a lull in activities at the Republican Convention in Kansas City 1976. The TD was O.Tamburri, Director: Walter Kravetz, AD Judy Garfield Farinet, Enid Roth, Director at "Victor", a TELCO facility where "outside" remotes were co-ordinated. Ray was cleaning out his files, when he found this and thought readers might enjoy it.

6:59:55 Roll opening tape from "Victor".

7:01:00 Director cues T.D. to dissolve from tape to opening shot by a slow wave of the arm directly in front of T.D.'s face which completely obliterates all monitors for at least six seconds.

7:01:20 Director snaps finger (directly in front of T.D.s face) for camera 1.

7:01:22 T.D. gently warns Director not to wave or snap in front of T.D.'s face.

7:04:00 Director sees pretty shot on one of 45 monitors, points, and remarks "gimme that", like a kid in a candy store.

7:04:02 A.D., (Judy), reminds Director that T.D. is getting "pissed".

7:08:00 Director starts to play "Kneesies" with T.D. T.D. backs away from console at same time Director screams "SUPER". T.D. smiles, thinking Director is paying T.D. a compliment on his work; but Director continues to yell "SUPER" until T.D. realizes Director means "Matte". T.D. lunges for Matte Button at extreme end of console. Director's comment: "You're late!"

7:10:01 Director calls for cut to "Outside", after months of planning and everyone having decided to call the area "Victor", Director insists on doing his own show--alone.

7:11:12 Director snaps -- Misses. T.D. saves again.

7:14:00 T.D. asks Director if it is all possible to give T.D. "Standbys", as all professional Directors do. Director stares straight ahead wondering why his last friend finds fault with a perfect person.

7:16:45 Lightning and thunder brings Director nearer to T.D. Director asks why T.D. likes Victor better.

7:17:01 Director yells: "I DON'T WANT ENID TO MIX IT, I WANT TO MIX IT MYSELF."

7:17:03 Lightning and thunder again. All camera PLs go dead but Director continues to scream at Cameramen who cannot hear him. After a few minutes, Director comments that show seems to be running much more smoothly.

7:21:00 Director gives late roll cue to Outside, (Victor), then cues T.D. to dissolve when leader is on 4. T.D. can't stand "egg on face", so closes eyes for 3-1/2 seconds and makes a graceful dissolve to tape.

7:24:24 During tape, Director decides to catch up on some slumber time. Judy has to wake Director. Director gives Judy a stare.

7:26:00 Director, watching CBS feed of a soap opera, misses "Outcue". T.D. makes another beautiful dissolve as we hear Les Crystal in background say, "Nice, George". [Not director's real name]

7:28:08 Director finally gives a standby to rainy shot from "Inside" but asks why sky is so dark.

7:29:30 Roll closing tag from "Outside", (Victor), LATE AGAIN, but T.D. cuts to beautiful glamour shot then dissolves, (with feeling), to closing tag. Everyone applauds Director. As Director bows and starts to exit, he reminds T.D. that with practice perhaps T.D. would follow Director's cues more closely in the future.

7:30:00 Sad to see a grown man cry.



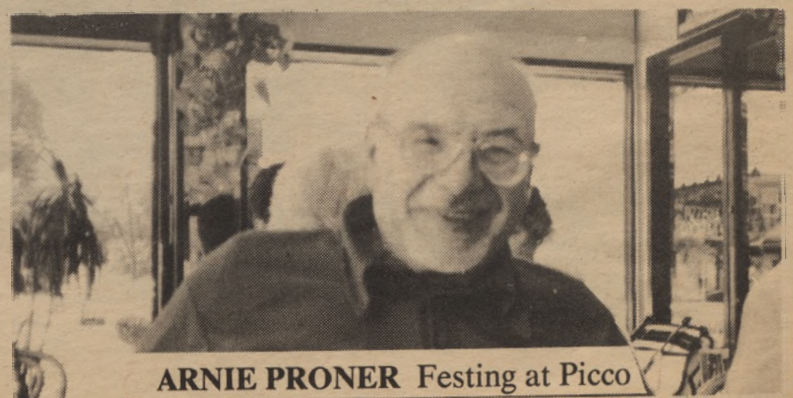
JACK BENNET III JACK BENNET Jr. TAB BUTLER



BOB BROWN congratulates BOB HILL with trophy, [closest to pin]. STEVE SKORUPKA looks on [center]



PN's FRANK GAETA accepts trophy - for "Best Puts" [L to R] BOB BROWN JOHN THOMAS FRANK STEVE



ARNIE PRONER Festing at Picco



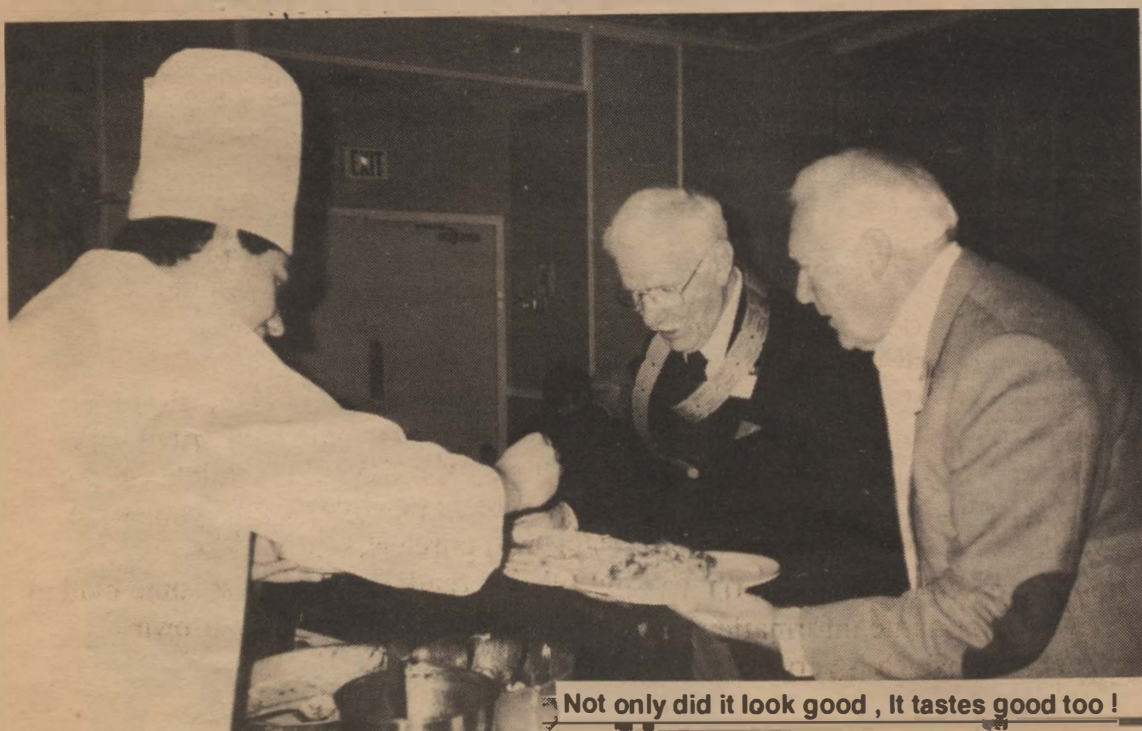


## " GOLDEN OLDIES "

Producer **DORIS ANN** of NBC Religious programs, and cast & crew pose in set... I spot **Ellwyn Allen, Hank Gerling, Dan Zampino, ? Dave Geisel, Bill Kelly, Buddy Joseph, Bill Goetz, Bill Raker, Doris Ann, (center) Maurey Penn, Director Martin Hoade, ? Jim Davis**



Enjoying an elegant lunch  
**ESTHER WEINSTEIN DORIS ANN KATHY VUKOVICH**



Not only did it look good , It tastes good too !

## WHATSHISNAME ? ? ?

(Larry Pintak, a former CBS News correspondent now working for his own media relations firm in Washington, recently wrote an amusing article on how he feels, having switched from being a reasonably well-known name to just another member of the crowd. Here are some excerpts from the Washington Journalism Review that will be quite familiar to those who were once before the cameras.)

The full title of Pintak's piece, "Didn't you Used to be Whatshisname?" and its addressed to fellow network correspondents.

"Welcome to the ranks of the ordinary people. There are advantages in plain personhood. No strangers saying 'Oh, that must be sooo interesting.' Or asking, 'What's Dan Rather really like?'"

No more stakeouts in the rain. No more 3am calls ordering you to catch the first plane to Ouagadougou.

Never again will you have to repeat the words 'full and frank discussion' with a straight face.

**DISADVANTAGES:** No expense account.

And on your infrequent visits to Duke Zeibert's restaurant you get a seat way in back. Also no lecture fees. Get used to that word 'former.'

Most shocking of all, you are no longer a disinterested observer watching the world from on high. News is suddenly something that happens to you. Earthquakes and wars will be transformed from good stories to serious inconveniences. Eventually, you'll realize your layoff was nothing personal, you were just a pawn in the Great Network Chess Game. And then it will get worse. You'll phone the old shop and some snotty desk assistant will ask you to spell your name. You will write, or at least start the book you always wanted to get on paper. And on page two, you will realize why Hemingway killed himself.

You stop watching the network you worked for. CNN? There are more than a few household names floating around who can't get phone calls returned from CNN, which maybe you once called the Chicken Noodle Network.

Hang in there, Scoop. You join the exalted company in the ranks of network exiles (including Ed Morrow, Walter Cronkite, etc) and people like Howard K. Smith are now making a bundle lecturing of productivity. And move fast. "More former network correspondents are being created every day."



## We thought You'd Like to Know Who's Who

Pge 21.

**STEWART MacGREGORY** sent me a Playbill, "On Golden Pond", presented by the Greenville Community Theater at the Woodlands High School Theater, with a nice thoughtful letter. Stu relates that he and **RICK KELLY**, [unit mgr. executive, plus other titles] had known each other for some 50 years. They had talked about the many shows they each had appeared in, in High school, college and summer stock companies, but neither had ever seen each other perform until now.

**Rick** played the role that **Henry Fonda** played in the motion picture -- but I [Stu] was amazed and pleased with the fine sustained humorous performance.

Quoting from the Playbill's Who's Who in the cast: Rick Kelly's Greenville debut in the March Workshop, A NEED FOR BRUSSEL SPROUTS, marked his return to the stage after a long hiatus. During the 10 year period 1966-1975 he was a mainstay of the no-name group that did the annual Scarsdale PBA fund raising productions, including THE GREEN HARP, THREE MEN ON A HORSE, LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL, and ALL THE WAY HOME. Over the years he has appeared in Shakeapeare, Shaw, Williams, Saroyan, Sheridan and a host of others; more than 30, not to mention a stirring Captain Hook in the musical PETER PAN.

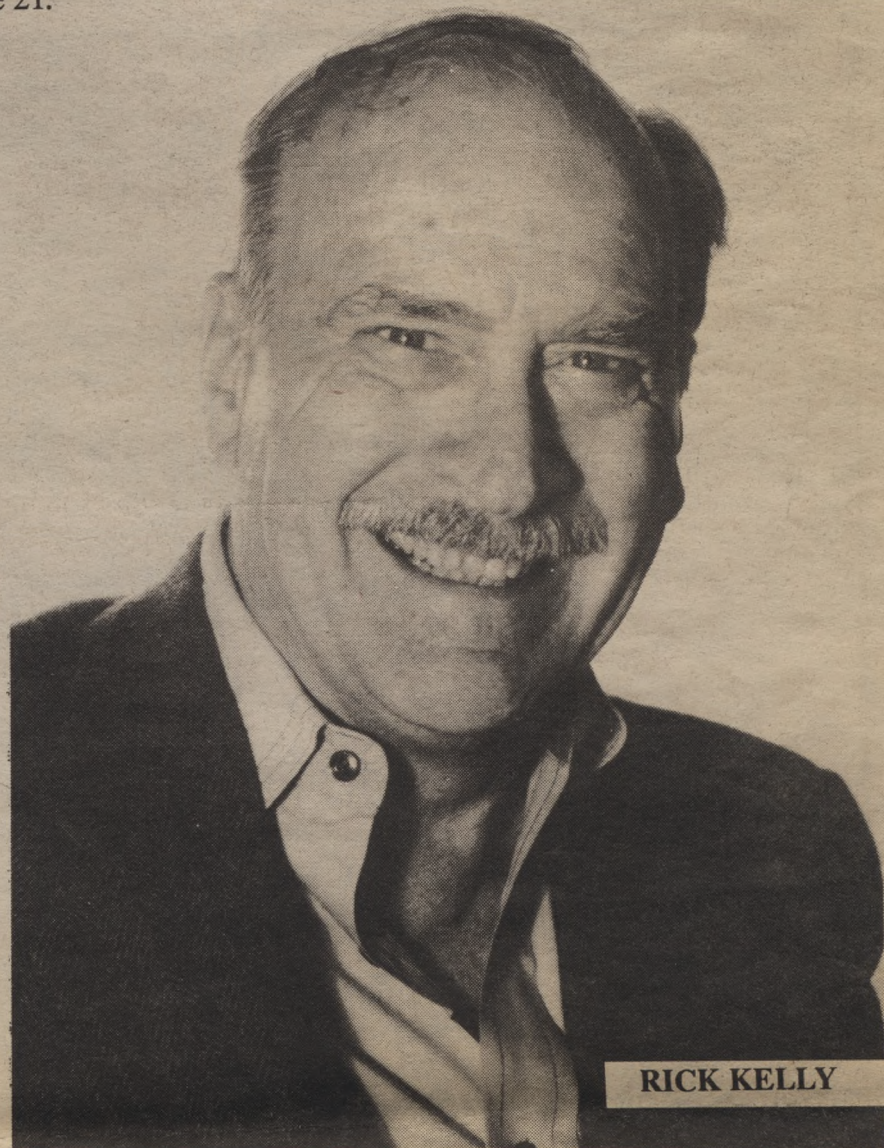
A review from The CUE magazine states: In the lead roles, Rick Kelly and Jacqy Hickey carry the show with a

flourish and the care and love between their two characters clearly evident. As a cantankerous retired professor, Kelly is excellent. In a most poignant moment, having returned with an empty bucket after being sent to pick strawberries, he tells Ethel he couldn't remember where the road was and that nothing looked familiar," So I came running back here to you to see your pretty face and to feel I was safe . That I was still me" -was delivered with brilliance... [Sorry I missed it...H.]

Fifty years ago this July, **RICK** graduated from pageants, recitals, pantomimes, playlets and one act-ers to appear in his first major production as Inspector Belize in NIGHT MUST FALL, presented at the Barbizon Plaza concert Hall in NYC. Rick a Scarsdale resident for 37 years, a Dartmouth graduate, is married to his wife Marg for 40 years. They are the parents of five adult children and grandparents of two.

Well, bet not too many of you knew of these capabilities and prowess, and artistic versatility. And from a fellow worker ! How delightful, and I never know you were into that ! Hooray and Bravo, Rick.

If you know of others that are doing something we'd never expect, let me know. Heino



**RICK KELLY**

### Should We Make the SS Number a National I.D.

Congress is looking into the idea of making our Social Security number a national identification number and as you might expect the pro and con groups are lined up. A House Ways and Means subcommittee chaired by Rep. Andy Jacobs of Indiana is checking it out and he notes that the extensive use of computers has resulted in widespread sector use of the number as an identifier.

When the numbers were introduced in 1935 it was only used to keep track of wages to determine future benefits.

Immediately everybody found it a convenient way to identify people, starting with the federal and state governments. Today, banks, credit bureaus, universities, everybody wants to know your number..And some, such as the state motor vehicle bureaus, sell the information along with other details on your drivers license.

So the pro side of the argument, everybody and his uncle already uses the information, so how can we complain about invasion of privacy ? The con side is worried about a large information network. It already exists. The pro's say use of it as an ID would stem the flood of illegal aliens and reduce crime.

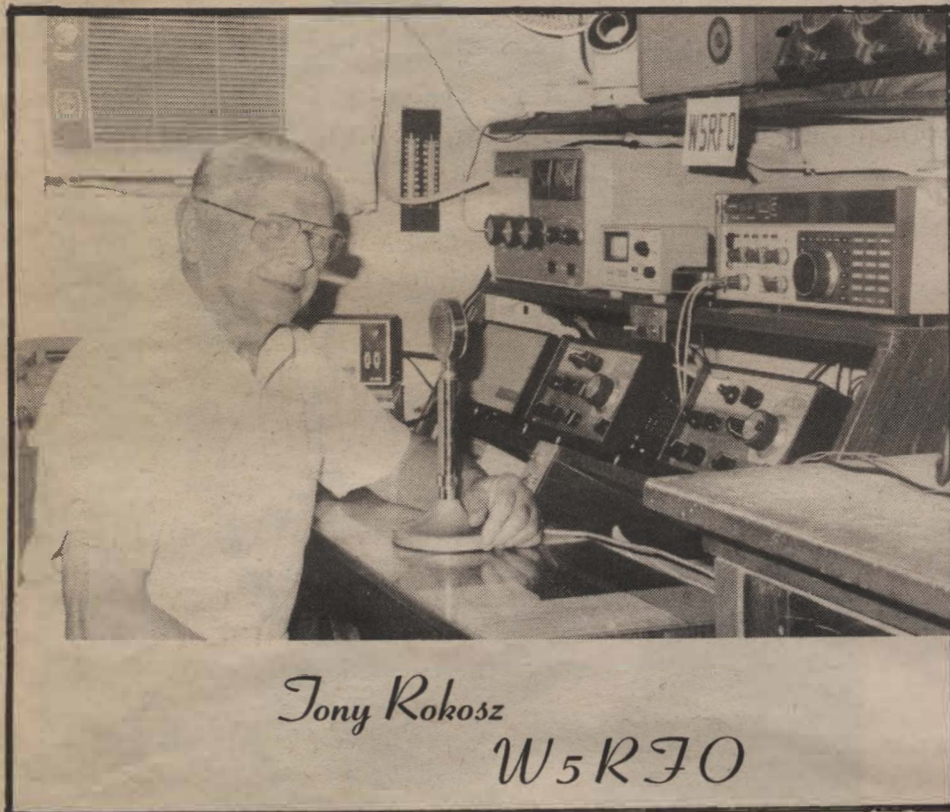
An updated SS card used as an ID would contain the same information as the present card, which is very little,

and something they call a "biometric characteristic" such as a fingerprint. That's not such a horrible idea. When entering military service we all had a fingerprint taken. Of course, some minorities will claim it's a shot at them. But how so? And finally the Social Security Administration is not enamoured with the idea since it would mean verifying identities and reissuing new cards. Of course they could start doing it with new cards, and grandfather the rest of us.

And on the subject of ID's, why don't the credit card people issue cards with a photograph ? Would certainly cut down 100 percent on stolen cards being used for swift purchases by culprits.

OK PN readers, how about some mail on this subject so we can get our own debate going...





*Tony Rokosz*  
*W5RFO*

*It is with great sadness to inform all our ham operators and friends that W5RFO, Tony Rokosz has passed away.*

Tony was the "Net controller" from Rio Rancho, New Mexico. He was perfect. Besides his great personality and good sense of humor, being centrally located and located in the west, he could hear everyone and guide the transmissions and relay information to others who couldn't hear due to diverse locations serviced.

I wondered why I had not heard Tony recently, and was about to call him to see if he was OK. But first I checked the net this morning (Oct 2) and I happened to talk to Bill Miller and Joe Kolb and Bill informed me That Tony was a "Silent Key". Bill said that Tony had walked his dog on Sept. 20, came in washed his hands and then collapsed. I think Tony had said he was 82. He had retired long ago, possibly 30 years, worked in TV maintenance while at NBC.

I looked in my log for the 20th [Friday], and indeed had talked with Tony that morning, as did Bill Miller, Hank Folkerts, John Ward, Charlie Savaia (that I heard) and Tony seemed his cheerful self. He mentioned on the radio recently that he had been driving and blacked out a while back, went through some scans but finally was told he has a gall bladder problem. Said he was thinking of not bothering with any further treatment for that. When we signed off on Friday Tony's dog gave his usual bark but extended it this day. The bark traditionally signified his usual sign off signal.

I shall miss him, a wonderful human being as well as having done a great service to all of us "hams" to make our hobby more enjoyable during our retirement and keeping PNers close.

Thank You Tony from us all.

## *Douglas Kiker (News)*

Doug Kiker, an NBC News Correspondent for the past 25 years, died in his sleep, apparently from a heart attack, while at his summer home at Chatham, Mass, at Cape Cod on August 14. He was 61 and is survived by his wife Diana, a daughter and 4 sons..

A Naval Officer during the Korean War, upon discharge he joined the Atlanta Constitution and eventually became its Washington Correspondent. Next, he served as director of information for the fledgling Peace Corps and then moved on the Washington staff of the Herald Tribune in 1963. In '66 Doug joined NBC. He was one of the few reporters travelling in the motorcade through Dallas in 1963 when President Kennedy was assassinated. During his NBC career he covered Watergate, Nixon's resignation, and the civil rights movement.

As a freelance writer he wrote a 1973 article for Washingtonian magazine on the 10 sexiest women in the capital and that soon enhanced his own personal life. Less than a year later he married one of the women on the list, Deana Knight. Doug was also a novelist and created a series of murder mysteries set on Cape Cod with a journalist as the protagonist. He was completing the fourth one at the time of his death.

Upon hearing of Kiker's death, President Bush wrote a note of condolence saying "I respected Doug--so did all who saw him as the fair, objective and decent man he was"

Doug was NBC's Rome correspondent from 1969 to '71 during which time he won a Peabody award for his reporting on the war in Jordan..

## *David Schor*

David started at N.B.C. in the 50's, and worked most of the time in the film area. Shortly after retirement, he left Franklin Sq. Long Island for the warmer climes of Plantation, Florida. Meeting David in the halls was always a pleasure, for he was always cheerful and smiling. I never saw him grouchy or unpleasant. Tough to do sometimes at NBC.

I learned of his passing, from Walter Miller, in September of a heart attack and is survived by his wife Sarah. Sorry I have no information about his children.



*Arthur Watson*

Arthur Watson, former president of NBC Sports, and the man who brought the 1988 and 1992 Summer Olympics to the network, died in June at the age of 61. At his family's request the cause of death was not disclosed. Watson is survived by his wife Maryalesia, a daughter and three sons..

He was president of Sports for ten years from 1979 to 1989 when he was named executive Vice President of the network NY Post sportswriter Phil Mushnick described Art as "a prince..He never talked down to anyone, was approachable, accessible." Mushnick recalled an exchange between Watson and one of his staffers in which he said "you don't have to be a bad guy to do a good job in this business." Watson joined NBC as an operations analyst in 1956 after getting an accounting degree from Fordham and spent 20 years in the stations division before moving into Sports...

*Charles Wilson*

Charlie was one of the early sound effects men at NBC. As radio stepped to the background, he went into TV, where he also did sound effects, then later on until his retirement Charlie was on the audio list.

Charles had worked at NBC 37 years, was 73 years old and a vet of WW II. After retirement, Chas moved from Saddle River in N.J. to Melbourne, Florida.

He passed away on Sept 26 and is survived by his wife Gertrude and two children. This news came from the NBC Hamnet.

*Joe Bartleme (News)*

Joe, who retired as Director of News Administration in January of this year, died of Lung Cancer at White Plains (N.Y.) Hospital Center in August. A resident of Scarsdale, he was 61 years old and is survived by his wife Margaret, two sons and a daughter.

He was a pioneer in building local news operations. He began his broadcasting career in 1958 at WCCO-TV (CBS) in Minneapolis. IN 1967 he created a news magazine format that doubled the station's audience. Bigger markets beckoned and Joe moved on to KNBC-TV in L.A. In 1971 as News Director and the station soon became the dominant one in the area. In 1976 he moved east with a number of other Californian NBC executives and became Vice President of the network's five 0&Os. Again higher ratings soon were apparent. In 1978, as VP of network news he revamped the "TODAY SHOW" and it moved ahead of the combined ratings for ABC and CBS' morning shows. He also initiated the Saturday Morning Kid Show, "ASK NBC NEWS," and the network's prime time digests, for a time he was also Executive Producer of "TODAY." From 1961 to '89 he was in charge of network news coverage..

Born in Sioux City, Iowa, he graduated from the State University and gave up a budding career in Pro Baseball to pursue journalism. For his investigative reporting and docs, he won honors from the RTNDA, a Peabody Award, and from Columbia University a Du Pont Award...

*Andre Baruch*

The memory of this announcer's voice stirs thoughts of a smooth, deep bass sound dripping with confidence and experience. And so it was. Baruch was a fixture on radio starting the 1930s with CBS and somewhat less on TV.

He died on September 15th at his Beverly Hills home at the age of 83 of natural causes.

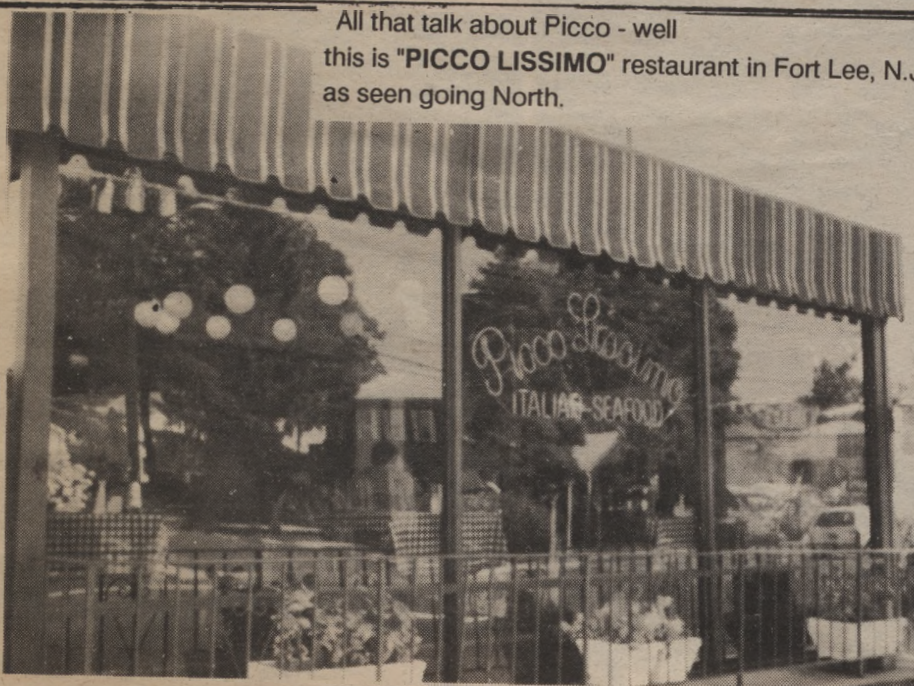
He was the signature voice on such standbys as "The Shadow", "The Kate Smith Hour" and "Your Hit Parade" for 25 years! During World War II, Baruch was a founder of Armed Forces Radio, and rose to the rank of Major. For many years he was the voice of Pathe News in the days when Americans went to the movies regularly and the newsreels put out two reels a week that usually included some kind of fashion show, and maybe some hijinks from the Cypress Gardens water show ! He and wife Bea Wain, who was a singer with pop bands [starring of radio's Hit Parade], worked together periodically on a man-and-wife radio show for 40 years. Up until 1979 you could hear them on the air from Palm Beach.

But it wasn't all smooth talk. In 1954 Baruch was hired to do play-by-play coverage of the Brooklyn Dodgers alongside Vince Scully. He was a founding member of AFTRA and in 1979 was inducted into the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Bea Wain, a daughter and a son are among the survivors.

*In Memoriam  
Our condolences go out to Francesca  
and George Peters who recently  
lost their son Michael.*

All that talk about Picco - well this is "PICCO LISSIMO" restaurant in Fort Lee, N.J. as seen going North.



Inside Picco: Look at those expressions ! These folk belong in front of the cameras -

CHARLIE TESSAR LEE CARLTON LEE PLISKIN FLORENCE RING



## GE & RETIREES BENEFIT ACCOUNTING

(Editors note: We're awaiting interpretations of this story which seems, on the surface, to give retirees a sense of confidence of how GE will treat us in the future. Our perks, I'm afraid, are always subject to the economic climate and company philosophy.)

In September, GE took a \$1.8 - billion non-cash, after-tax charge against its earnings to comply with a new federal accounting rule concerning the financing of retirees health benefits.

Companies must recognize the obligations they have today for the medical and other benefits they will provide to their current and future retirees tomorrow. They have until Jan.1, 1993 to adopt the new rule and 20 years to implement it. But GE decided to do it all now because it has the financial strength and wanted to put the headache behind it.

The hefty move is expected to reduce GE's equity by only 8 percent. But the stock actually went up on the day of the announcement because of other positive news about GE.

Companies can lower the cost of the change by re-negotiating the promises they have made to certain workers-- other than those who have retired already. That is said to be the reason most companies are not rushing to make this change in their book-keeping.

(Editors note: There's nothing in the news story we used as a source to indicate our insurance rates can't go up, and that our benefits can't go down. However, its nice to know GE is putting something in the piggy bank to pay for part of our future.)



MARIAN EISKAMP

## IS THIS US ?

Pge 24

*The forgotten man... delving away in patient industry, supporting his family, paying his taxes, casting his vote, supporting the church and school....*

*but he is the only one for whom there is no provision in the great scramble and the big divide. Such is the forgotten man.*

*He works, he votes, generally he prays -- but his chief business in life is to pay....*

William Graham Sumner  
speech, The Forgotten Man [1883]

## NBC Ham Net Info

There are two Hamnets for NBC amateur radio operators. The Original, on 20 meters, continues at a bit before 10 am Monday thru Friday. Either Hank Folkerts, K4KO in Florida, and/or Joe Kolb, W2NL in Virginia, will cover as net controllers, since Tony was called away, depending which one can be around and band conditions..

Due to continuous QRM on 14.242, for November at least, we'll stay on 14.242, but if we are QRM'd, tune in 14.223. The plan then is to switch to 14.223. I'm sure it'll be discussed at length on the net.

There is a second net on 40 meters at 7.242 Mc at 10:30am. DAVE HUBBY is net control there. See you on the radio !



SCOTT & JUDY SCHACHTER

## LETTERS! LETTERS! LETTERS!

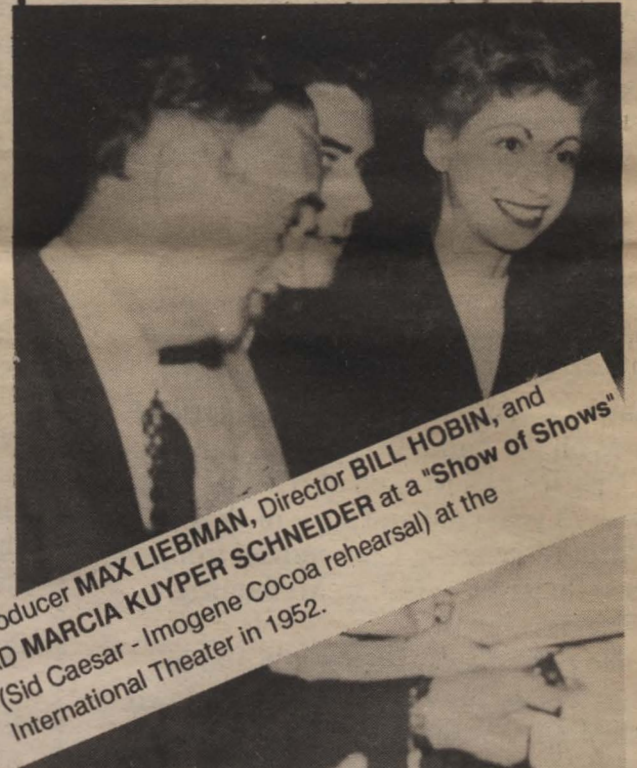
Your newsletter is always in need of news. We ain't got the AP. We ain't got the UPI. We ain't got Reuters. So where do we get "the word"? From our subscribers, some of whom are very diligent in mailing us information. You may not know what SOMEBODY ELSE is doing or has done. But you certainly know about YOUR OWN activities.

Jobs...travels...reunions...even couch potatoes have to out to the supermarket and something could happen on the way. Oh, you let your fingers do the walking and don't leave the couch!!

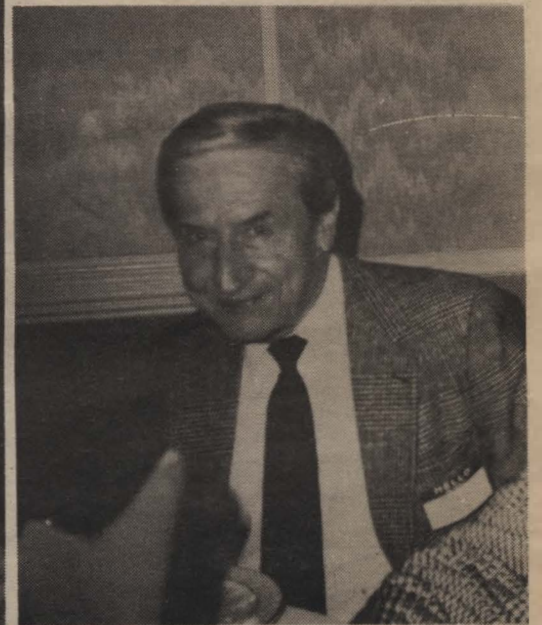
YOU used to be in the news business, so remember your roots. Drop notes to Pete, to your editor or to Heino, whichever makes you more comfortable, for our next issue.

Don't worry about being outdated. Its still news to the rest of us!!!

THANKS



Producer MAX LIEBMAN, Director BILL HOBIN, and AD MARCIA KUYPER SCHNEIDER at a "Show of Shows" (Sid Caesar - Imogene Cocoa rehearsal) at the International Theater in 1952.



STAS PYKA



## Ken's Korner



Ken Arber , at Florida Bash

While working at the 67th Street studios, where NBC had rented Studio A,B AND B1, but not Studio C, which was still in use by WOR-TV, to watch their 5:30 News, which was directed by Warren Wade, former NBC TV director, whom I knew from NBC. Two other NBC TV directors in the early days were Ed Padula and Tom Hutchinson, If I recall correctly.

This particular time, Newscaster Henry caster was rehearsing, and was fooling around with the opening announcement, as announcers have done many, many times. Air time came and Wade cued " Announce !", as if he were on the Shakespearian stage. We heard Gladstone say This is Henry Gladstone with the 5:30 News, brought to you by the "Ash can automobile company of Kenosha, Wisconsin" the words he was kidding with at rehearsal , instead of "brought to you by the NASH automobile Co." With that he stopped talking, leaned to his right and fell off his chair. Wade screamed "Go to black, Call master control to put on a standby slide or standby film..It seemed like a good time for me to make a hasty retreat from Studio C.

The Jinx Falkenberg Show in the 50's, originated in Studio C, 67th St. and the "Peacock Alley" at the Waldorf Astoria. Jinx, a most beautiful woman, was the first "Miss Rheingold" to be chosen to represent the Rheingold Brewery. She conducted an interview show directed by Mike Garguilo. TD's Gary Iorio, Jim Colemanm and Vic Bary worked the show from time to time.

Jinx was a pleasure to work with, she never complained or found fault with anything. At one time she was doing a commercial for Trafferie costume jewelry set on a low coffee table. The camera on a fearless dolly was tongued up high so the camera could look down on the display.

Suddenly the [black and white] camera slid of the camera mount and crashed down on the coffee table jewelry just as she removed her hand. Someone has not used the "Potter's Tool" to fasten the camera. She never batted an eye nor complain about the accident.....

In the Brooklyn Studio a major production was taking place, this a rehearsal for "Taming of The Shrew" starring Ingrid Bergman, directed by John Frankenheimer, a top notch TV and Film Director, and not immune to frofanity. Rehearsal had stopped. John anxiously and loudly yelled to the floor manager, "Where is that Bitch?" while the floor manager responded, "She's gone to the ladies room", a sweet voice from the back of the control room in a Swedish accent asked, "Vas you looking for me Yahn?"

Ken Arber

## RUSS TORNEBENE'S

### TV Trivia Answer

*Dwight Eisenhower's second inaugural as president was the first use of videotape in a network news program.*

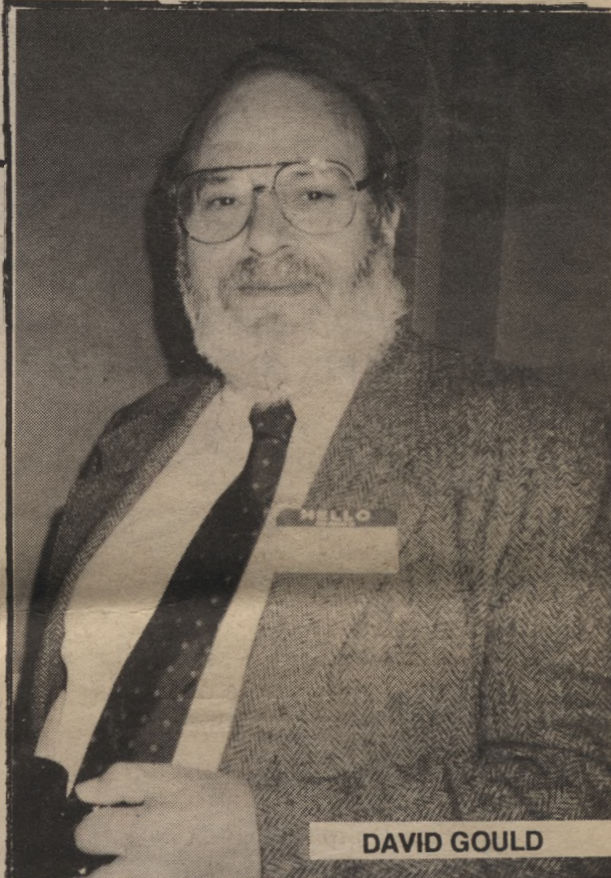
The day was January 20, 1957 and with great anticipation the taking of the oath of office was videotaped and played back within a few minutes. David Brinkley was anchoring and explained in his straightforward manner that NBC was going to try something new. The tape worked well and of course broadcast history was made, as it has been so frequently with new inventions and modifications. Up until then the traditional mode of preserving and playing back an event was a "kinescope" or more simply the video image photographed off a TV kinescope onto film. That system took longer since film had to be developed before being played back. Hey, you want to go back even further to the days when sound was recorded on metal?? Thanks Russ. Now - who was the engineer that made the recording that made history ??? ???



JOE MERGNER at Picco

## Pge 25. DICK DUDLEY'S TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. SHORE [ DINAH ]
2. IORIO [ GARY ]
3. DENTZ [ STODDARD ]
4. NELSON [ MORTEN ]
5. EDDY [ BILL ]
6. YUCCA
7. SILVER [ ROY ]
8. TAFFEE [ ED ]
9. RIPP [ HEINO ]
- 10 OKTOBERFEST
- 11 TAMBOURRI (NÉ) [ O. ]
- 12 ZOO



DAVID GOULD

## The Great Red & Blue Network Debate

Some time ago, announcer Dick Dudley told PN Newsletter readers that the old Red and Blue networks got those designations when engineers mapped out the transmission routes using red and blue pens. Well, now another announcer, formerly of the Washington staff has another version, here reported by newsman Russ Tornebene who now makes his home in Evanston, Illinois. Writes Russ:

"Charlie Batters, who was a veteran when I joined the network in 1951, told me the sustaining network program log was filled in by announcers in blue typewriter ribbon and the commercial network program log was written with red ribbon, hence the red and the blue".

We're sure we have not heard the end of this tale, so if you have another version or can support one or the other of the above, dear reader, kindly do so in the next mail.



## Word From

## The Better Half

Many years ago as an NBC wife, I wrote a letter to NABET News venting my anger at not being invited to a dinner honoring the men who were with the Company for 25 years or more. Certainly, I did not need the dinner, but would have liked the opportunity to see my husband Charlie being honored.

Okay! That's long gone.

Now, all these retirees, male and female enjoy a comradery with each other that is truly quite a kick.

As a first time attendee of a Peacock Lunch on June 4th, I would like to strongly urge all partners to come and share the fun and feelings. It was truly a pleasure participating.

Many thanks to Pete Peterson and all who started and continue that event.

With warmest regards, Doris Tessar  
P.S. I think we have a lot to add.

## "WITH LOVE FROM MARGATE"

Frank O'Keefe of Margate, florida, is reporter for our sister retirees' newsletter in Florida, and an occasional Poet. The war in the middle east inspired O'Keefe, earlier this year, to write what he calls a poetic journal entitled,

"FROM DESERT SHIELD  
TO DESERT STORM."

The following was his entry for February 16, 1991, or D-Day plus 31..

## WITH LOVE FROM MARGATE

*I attended a rally in Margate, and  
came away most proud.  
For I was one of the many in that  
Yankee Doodle Crowd.  
A small segment of our home front,  
all under a single banner  
That flag that waves so freely, a  
slice of Americana.*

*All faiths are represented here, to  
tell you that we care*

*As we rally round the flag for our  
people over there.*

*These rallies are repeated all over  
our great land*

*For those people who are fighting out  
on that desert sand.*

*And in every town and hamlet across  
the U.S.A.*

*Our prayers and thoughts go with you,  
we're behind you all the way.....*

This entry from O'Keefe's daily journal was published in a local Florida Newspaper and 4,000 copies were distributed as post cards, to be mailed to servicemen/women in the Persian Gulf.

**Suggest to Your  
NBC Friends  
To Join P. N.**

The Story  
Behind The Picture

Pge 26.

Seen at Florida  
Retirees Bash !

BILL SMYTH

TONY NELLE

When we ran this photo in our March issue we were amused by the NBC identification on the jeep in Korea. The GI's are Bill Smyth and Tony Nelle, both of whom served in the NBC engineering dept. Bill filled in some of the background in the letter that follows:

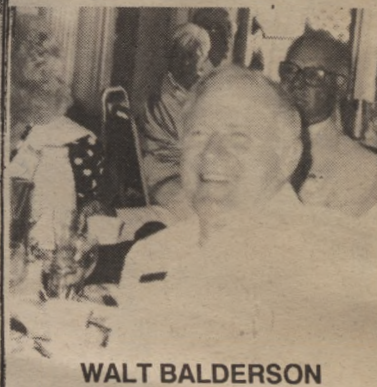
Thanks so much for the picture of Tony and me from the Peacock North. When I thought about the picture a little bit, I realized that it was far more than a passing in the night.

In the first place, both Tony and I benefitted from the NBC contact with the signal corps. Each of us was scheduled for other service until the signal corps acquired each of us at the suggestion of NBC. NBC also provided the information for us to find each other in Seoul.

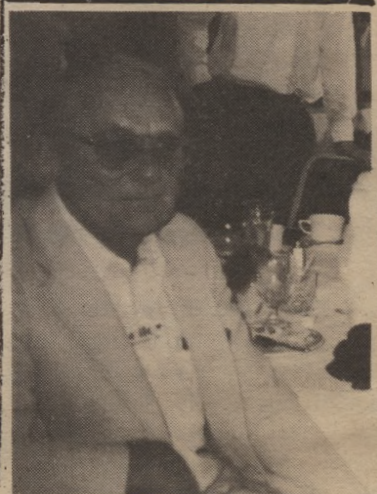
At the time of the picture, Tony was the chief engineer of the Armed Forces Radio Station in Seoul. I, as a corporal, was the studio officer for the 4th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Co. which was running four stations in Korea for the Koreans. Also about that time, our company loaned Tony a 180 foot tower for the AFRS and installed it outside the Foreign Correspondence Barracks where they were located.

I returned to NBC for 3 years in color operations before leaving for the non-broadcast world. I later spent 14 years in CBS engineering and since 1977 have operated my own engineering consulting business. My clients have included, among others, ABC, CBS and Fox.

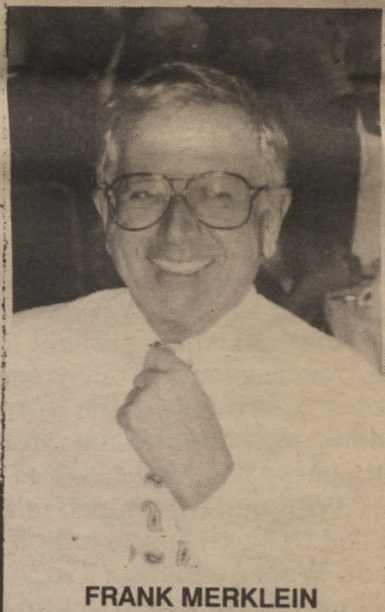
Thanks for your interest, Bill



WALT BALDERSON



JOE WAAG



FRANK MERKLEIN



BOB HIGGINS

[L to R] PEG PETERSON DOT IORIO JUNE/LEE CARLTON  
FRANK DERIENZO GARY IORIO at Picco



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PEACOCK NORTH is a  
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DON & KAY MULVANEY  
at Florida Spring Bash

## Pres. F.D.R. Speaks

[ FRANK DeRIENZO ]

On Sunday, we shared our very successful OKTOBERFEST Inn in Clifton, N.J. These affairs are truly unique and for those of you who could not attend, I would highly recommend you come to the next one. Where else in the world could you get together with the select group that you were with over 2000 hrs a year (plus o.t.) for 25 to 40 + years, and renew experiences we shared in the Golden Age of TV ? ?

With the industry changing, I'm sure there'll never be group like PN, except of course the NBC Retirees in the South, who will be getting together in Orlando next spring, that you could attend.(See Page 3)

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and I would like to thank Dan Gabel, Heino Ripp and Pete Peterson's efforts for this excellent publication.

Enjoy the upcoming Holiday Season. Keep those letters coming and try to attend the Mini luncheons listed on Pge.1.

Stay healthy and enjoy your retirement.

Frank DeRienzo

## Message From Pete Peterson

PN welcomes the new members! Our membership with a roster of over 500 continues to grow. The rate of growth however, has lessened, and we hope to find others who have not yet learned about our group and invite them to join us. It should be mentioned here that we lose members too. We have lost over 60 in the last four years, as time and age has taken its toll. The continuation of friendships developed during our working years has few vehicles such as this newsletter to disseminate information and news in areas of common interest. The economy of this operation depends wholly on your commitment to continue your membership, as dues are our only source of income. (If any one is motivated to make additional donations, we would welcome that generosity)

So as we are looking forward to 1992, we are striving to bring the latest news and most pertinent info for the group. Please let us know if there are areas of particular interest we could expand on, and of course feel free to submit articles or tid-bits we can pass along. Pictures too! Please send in your dues with the form on the last page.

73's gentlemen and 88's to the ladies. *Pete*  
(73's = Best regards, 88's = Love and kisses.)



Pn-ers on Long Island enjoying their Mini Lunch

To Join Peacock North, use this application  
Fill in this form and mail to:

### Peacock North

Peter Peterson  
30 Ann Arbor Place,  
Closter, N.J. 07624

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN : \_\_\_\_\_

STATE : \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ AT NBC FM \_\_\_\_\_ TIL \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT AT NBC \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



VIC KIMM at Picco

1991 DUES - \$ 20.00 PER YEAR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PEACOCK NORTH

OPEN TO NBC EMPLOYEES WITH SERVICE OF 25 YEARS OR MORE SERVICE



## PHOTOS FROM OUR ALBUM



"GARROWAY at LARGE " 106th Street in the fifties.

L to R: DAVE BURNS LARRY ELIKANN GENE FRISCH VINCE DIPIETRO  
DAVE GARROWAY ? ? ? NEIL HOLLAND LOU GERARD LARRY LOCKWOOD  
SAM ROTH VINCE DALY BERNIE JACOBS JOE BOSS

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