



P.N. PEOPLE

PN's membership roster continues to grow, and now, just 3 1/2 years young, we are at around 450 (it grows daily) with the recent addition of several NBC luminaries, including Pres & CEO **BOB WRIGHT**, Exec. VP **ED SCANLON** and **DICK EBERSOL**, Pres. of NBC Sports. (dubbed honorary members at the 25 Year Club event) and former CEO **GRANT TINKER** (a dues-paying card carrier).. turn to PG.2 for more "People", "A bit of Humor".

N.B.C. INDUCTS 21 VETS INTO 25 YEAR CLUB

by Dan Grabel

NBC held on to tradition Thursday, Dec 6 when it paid homage to 21 new members of the 25 year club, along with 8 others who marked 40 years of service.

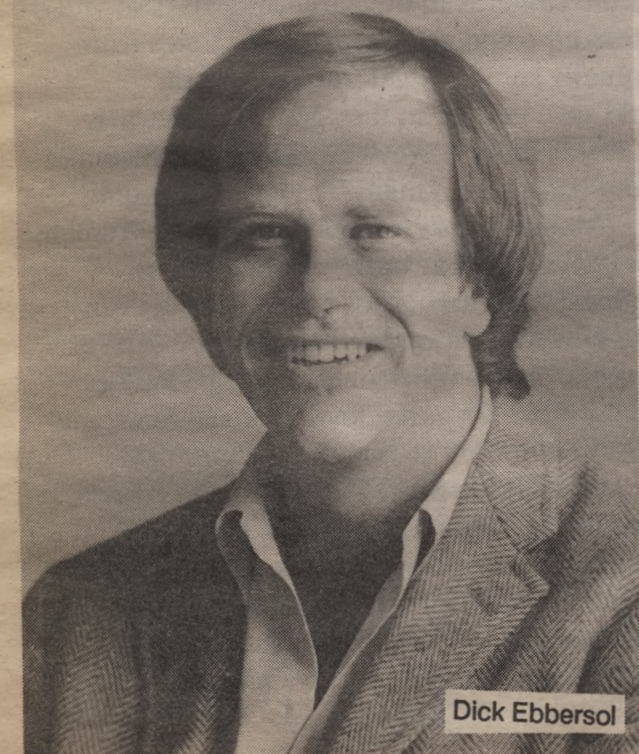
President and CEO **ROBERT C. WRIGHT** greeted the Guests of Honor 1990 at the Plaza Hotel, pointing out that their careers span the company's most intense decades of struggle to gain network leadership, and today, to hold on to that leadership in the face of adverse economics.

Other NBC spokesmen compared today's fight for the advertising dollar with the problems 20 years ago when the cigarette advertising was eliminated from tv screens. A huge economic blow [bad for the industry, good for the nation's health]. But the company feels it sees the light at the end of the tunnel, and that 1992 (not 1991) will be brighter.

Wright says its an experience the tv business has never ---- cont'd pge 4.



Grant Tinker



Dick Ebersol



PN's VP Pete Peterson & NBC CEO Robert Wright at NBC's 25 Year Club.

After seeing PN Newsletter Wright said approvingly, "Oh, this is Good!"



Spring Fling Returns to "La Maganette"

Turn to Page 3. for details

PN PEOPLE cont'd fm Pge 1.

A bit of **HUMOR**

DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1, 1991
MEMBERSHIP DUES
\$ 15.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR
Fill in this form and mail to:

Peacock North

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

NAME :

ADDRESS :

GRANT A. TINKER

This application came in recently

As it was passed around at the editorial meeting, each had quite a laugh as the last two items were read. It's no wonder Grant Tinker is successful in the biz, for it's clear that besides having business sense, he has a sense of humor.

PHONE NO.

DEPT. AT CO. **SEVERAL** SPOUSE NAME. **SEVERAL**

1991 DUES - \$ 15.00 PER YEAR
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PEACOCK NORTH

Please go back to pge 1 now.

FRANK DeFELITTA is out in LA writing best-selling occult thriller novels, directing occasional TV movies, and just finished writing/ directing/producing a feature film for movie house release, and **KEN DONOGHUE**, who studied paralegal work is still up in New York State (Ed. Note: I think me means Rockland County). **JAKE PATENT**, [film] who departed NBC in 1970, at retirement, has found his fill of nostalgia in PN, and has joined our group... **O.TAMBURRI**, a man who like the author O.Henry, never seems to get his first name printed, says that after 5 years of "Golden Girls", he is finally going to retire-retire". Tambi is hoping to play more golf, and see the world. [Did you know that the crew 1, consisted of **Tambi**, **Jack Coffey**, and **Larry Elikann** on cameras, and **H. Ripp** as TD ?] Tambi's son **KEN**, who has been technical director on "Empty Nest" since it started, has taken over as TD on "Golden Girls". (You probably knew it all along, but the O. in O.Tamburri stands for.. Orlando... Retired announcer **VIC ROBY** sent in his 1991 dues early, saying he's looking forward to another great year with PN. [Remember ALL dues are due January 1st, which is long past]... Greetings too from **ROSE DeRENZIS** (Advt & Promotion), who says she's trying to get **Al Colacino** to join. Hey Al, it's a privilege , not an onerous duty... **BILL MILLER** checks in from Port Charlotte, loves his newsletter. A combo of eye problems, and as Bill says, just plain laziness is keeping him a distance from his favorite fishing pole... **WALT HIMMELBERG** [tv master cnt'l] has moved to Colorado City from Sedona and he says they've had five snowfalls since early October (and that was in mid December). It's probably over the eaves by now, although he says the snow is usually gone the next day, In Colorado? Walt says he's only 75 miles from his daughter. Of course in Colorado, that's the next town !

[People 3. cont'd fm left column]

From the Hawaiian Island of Maui, **JON BURKHART** [Retired TD from KPRC, Houston] writes, "Just finished a golf event for ESPN. The production/engineering coordinator was a guy you may remember, **JEFF CULLIVER**. I worked the Goodwill Games too, but it still isn't the Olympics. Sure would like to go to Barcelona. [Jack Weir please note, H.][Jon was also in Korea for the summer Olympics and does many of the Hawaii originated sports events]. **JOHN** and **SHIRLEY DONOHUE** [audio/video] writes from Wayne, N.J. "we read every word of PN, and like a good book, we don't want it to end." (Hey we staffers gotta take a break sometime !)... Announcer **BILL HANRAHAN**, up there in Conn., I believe, says he's enjoying good health, (T.G.), and doing some corporate voice overs. Bill wonders what has happened to **CHARLIE SIEG**, the director. Anyone know ?... Greetings to all from **ARTHUR GARY**, who we hope will make it to La Maganette in April... Too late for our December issue, we discovered that **DICK DUDLEY**'s talents include lyric writing. He did a song titled "It's Christmas Ev'ry Day, when you're in love," with composer **Howard Smith**. Dick wrote, "There's such a thing as holly in July, and Cherubs even wait 'til June to fly!"---Now all together, a-one, anna-two, anna-tree! [yes I know it's misspelled, but haven't you ever heard Lawrence??]... **ROSS MARTINDALE** [sound effects] took one look at a recent issue of PN newsletter and quickly sent in his dues; didn't want to miss the next issue. Good! Ross by the way sometimes hangs his hat way up there in Yarmouth, Maine..... More greetings:

These from **DOROTHEA** and **BILL DeLANNOY** [TVC] : **JEAN & AL FINELLI** [sound effects -remember them ?], enjoying retirement in St Augustine. They enjoy (1). the pace. (2). the weather. (3). the golf. Also the parade of visitors, including: **TOM & EUNICE SMILEY**, (who belong to the same club), **WARREN ZITO** and **WALTER & DORIS VETTER**, **RON & SONNY LEVY**, and **MARION & GEORGE KIYAK**...

JIM REINA [unit mgr] is alive and well in LA. He moved on to ABC after NBC, retired in '86 and moved to California in '86 and moved to California in 1987. He works part-time for the LA Visitors and Convention Bureau. Jim also reminds us that he is married to the former **GLORIA CROMWELL** (Hey! Remember the drug store at 30 Rock? No connection). But - Gloria was one of four or five NBC color test pattern models. They posed before the cameras in the early color days so video men [like Pete Peterson] could get correct facial tones from the cameras. Eventually some budget minded person suggested they could save dough, so they got rid of the girls and put up a piece of cardboard! Anyway, Gloria has resumed her acting career and has parts in many TV series including "Murder She Wrote, Moonlighting, Hunter, Designing Women, Coach" and movies including "War of the Roses and Say Anything". Boy she must have a hot shot agent. Maybe even some talent ? It's an enviable list of credits. Anybody need a white-haired male model ?[in clothes only, please]... **JIM & MAE SMART** [audio infield & sports] love their PN news, and wrote to say so. Tnx. You Smarts are smart!... We missed reporting it earlier, but we hope Betty Furness is all mended. She had been at Memorial Sloan-Kettering for surgery. Betty is a reminder of how investigative newspeople keep a lot of flim-flam types in line for the benefit of the rest of us. **HELEN** and **RAY DiPRIMA** said they spent a "working vacation" in their Florida apartment; returned there in January and expect to have a flow of guests... cont'd Pge 8.

Billion \$\$\$ Salesman Joins P.N.



Left to right:
Johnny Carson Julian Goodman Max Buck

A new member of PN, but far from a retiree, having departed NBC in 1978 when he reached 65, is **MAX BUCK**. In a career that began at NBC in 1953, Max held many titles, including network VP of sales, Nat'l sales manager, station manager WNBC-TV, etc. Writing about Max in 1978, Variety carried a page one story dubbing him the top tv time salesman of all time, with sales of four billion dollars. One sale just before his retirement, was to American Home Products for \$100 million, the top bulk order of all time. (Hey Max, even the top commission of all time, too?). Even with that sale, came age 65 and he had to go. (Obviously a "shoot-yourself-in-the-foot" management policy). And we quote Variety, "Age Cannot Wither, Nor Retirement Stale Max's Infinite Variety of Salesmanship".

Buck now resides in Ft. Lauderdale.

"La Maganette" Spring Fling

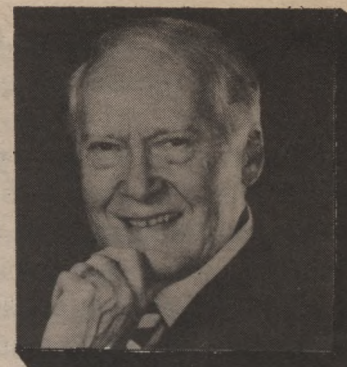
The Rites of Spring, PN's April version of the very successful OKTOBERFEST gathering, will bring us back to La Maganette restaurant at 50th Street and third Avenue in Manhattan, on Sunday April 28th. It's for lunch, at 12 noon and the very reasonable tab, including gratuity, is just \$ 20. That's a bargain-hunters price for the great food and the great comeraderie you'll enjoy. And we speak from experience, since PN's earlier luncheons at La Maganette have been wonderful successes, with over 125 guests attending.

We hope to have an interesting event scheduled following the lunch for all to participate in, as we did year before last. If everything comes together, an announcement will be made at the lunch.

And scheduling the event right smack in the middle of Manhattan means that PNers who live in Baghdad on the Hudson (gosh, isn't that the term Walter Winchell used to refer to that locale? Now, little ole Baghdad is back in the current news!) Anyway, no excuses this time, since La Maganette is reachable by bus! by subway! by bicycle! Even taxi! And suburbanites, it's easy to park nearby at noon on Sunday, free. See the reservation form elsewhere in this issue.

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

By
Dan Grabel



Complaints. Complaints. **Richard Lamm**, the former Governor of Colorado, wrote recently on the New York Times' OP Ed page that Congress had just passed a budget that gives 60 percent of federal social spending to just 12 percent of the citizens, the 12 % being senior citizens.

The Lamm's figures, in 1987 Congress spent \$ 10 010. per capita on the elderly and only \$ 854 per capita on children.

In a nice catchy phrase he says "*poverty in America is more likely to wear diapers than a hearing aid.*"

Lamm says the elderly have (1) the highest disposable income (2) own one third of all household assets (3) 40 percent of all financial assets.

What he doesn't say is that it took 40 years or more of hard work to earn and save that nest egg, that the elderly have plenty of ailments and without the bucks, you don't get good medical care, and finally. sure we're elderly and that means we wont be around very long to enjoy those assets.

The good Governor (that's just a writer's phrase, I'm not going soft) -- the good Governor has a plan to deal with what he calls the "**millionaire elderly**": Higher taxes on Social Security income and on Medicare benefits we may get.

If Lamm wants wants to help solve the federal budget problem, why not start in Washington. Let's slash the perks Congress gives itself, like cheap haircuts, fat pensions, fancy junkets to "study situations for possible future legislation", wasteful pork barrel prijects for the home district, and that flood of free "franked" newsletter mail we get just before elections. Few elected officials leave Washington willingly, so the jobs must have an attraction for the "**millionaire Congress**".

MINI LUNCH AT PICCO

we will have our next **Mini Lunch** at the popular Picco Lissimo Restaurant on Route 9, Ft. Lee, N.J., a mile south of the Geo Wash. Bridge, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH AT 12:30 pm.**

25 Year Club

cont'd fm pge.1

known in its previous 40 years, an enormous slicing up of the total audience with the coming of cable tv. The result: ABC's share price dropping \$200, CBS losing millions daily because of the high cost of its baseball and other sports acquisitions, Fox losing audience because it switched its programming approach and ended up with poor results. But, unlike ABC and CBS, "We do not have to go through hell to survive".

"Discount prices? We got 'em. There was a time customers begged for a chance to buy more air time. Today, even NBC is seeking buyers with offerings 20 to 40 percent below the rate book quotations".

Reassuringly, Wright insisted the Network remains NBC's core business. "We are in for the long haul", he said. Profits are to be made for us in entertainment and sports. And now, we've gotten into cable. Until Washington changes some laws (and we're lobbying hard for that) we cannot produce programs for sale, so our business remains the sale of advertising time.

On a lighter note, **BOB WRIGHT** noted that there have been 12 NBC Presidents since **NILES TRAMMEL**'s day in 1951, and that averages to about three years for a president's tenure, so he sees little chance of joining the 25 year club.

Some 350 past and present vets showed up and we gleaned some current history from them: **BOB WEINTRAUB** [engineering, chryron] who enjoys photography as a hobby, apparently more than shooting candid of the grandchildren, Bob recently had an exhibit of 30 of his photos at the West Hempstead Library. Recently made a trip to Israel. And now in an effort to give Uncle Sam the bare minimum, he is taking a tax course at Hofstra. Marks ? - A nice 3.97 that's out of 4.0 max, Bub)...

The rumor mill, how wild can you get ? One retiree, after chewing on his canape, said he heard NBC was moving out of 30 Rock. Going west. Well, we heard that one for a long time, and since GE just chiseled its name into the front door marble, we think they're going to stay for a while...

Writer Producer **TOMMY TOMAZAWA** says he is working with another ex-NBCer, **TONY POTTER**... **MARJORIE SHIELDS**, peripatetic traveller, up for the 25 year club event from Boca. We worked together at WPIX in 1948 !!!!...

Writer **MORT HOCHSTEIN** ex WNBC and Today, etc) keeping his typewriter (or word processor) active with freelance stuff in the food and travel fields...

We're told that **JEFF POND**, ex writer, is living in Palm Beach and in the Caribbean... **BILL BALES** in from Locust Valley and points east. Still writing... **STAN APPENZELLER** (publicity) now an account exec with Arlen Financial Communications... **SIG BAJAK**, a double retiree: from NBC News and as an Admiral [and jet pilot] in the US Naval Reserve. atten-hut !... If you see a familiar NBC face on the silver screen, it could be former director **MARV EINHORN**. Also following the Call Board notices as a thespian, writer **ED GOUGH**... **RICK KELLY** of the Annx Dept meeting old chums. When he handed me his business card, I realized we live 2 blocks apart in Scarsdale...

Don't you peruse the list of names in the 25 year club book NBC prepares and wonder why some vets fail to show up?... A nice contingent from the film editing dept (ooops, EJ editing dept.) including many who are still at 30 Rock: **BILL LOCKHART**, **BILLY FREEDA**, **ANGELO FARINA**, **LOUIS FERRA**, **AL DANUFF**, **LOU CASTRO**, **TIM GIBNEY**, **PETE GILMORE**, **GEORGE HUPART**, **OTTO PFEFFER**, **ELLIOT RAUNER**, **STU ROSENBERG**, **GEROGE MOYANTCHEFF**, **MARTY SHEPPARD** and **JOHN TEEPLE**...

JIM ALDRICH, 40-years-plus-, still doing a triple; spending his time in Fire Island, Forest Hills and Ft. Lauderdale, as the seasons change... Ex-WNBC Newser **EDITH CAHILL** was busy last fall as publicity chief for Andy Spano, a Westchester politico, seeking a seat in Albany... More guests, sports director, **TED NATHANSON**... announcer **VIC ROBY**... **MARGE McGLYNN**, who loves meeting old chums... writer **PETER OCHS** who has been doing six and six since before they

and six months in Vienna, where his business card reads "Lugwig Peter Ochs", probably because that sounds better in the land of "schlag"... Also field engineer **JOHN OAKLEY** (lights! camera! action!)... **MORTY ARONOFF** without **HANK HEUSTIS**, and Hank Heustis without Morty Aronoff. Writers **BERYL PFIZER**, still there, and writer **CATHERINE FAULCONER**, enjoying her retirement... And newswriter **BOB TOOMBS** made his appearance.

Hello from Director **RANDY WANDS**, who still glows over his usual annual assignment, doing Christmas at the Vatican... **PHIL FALCONE**... **GENE FRISCH** ... **ART KENT**... **BERT IVRY**... **RUDY GEBHART**... **HENRIK KROGIUS**... **BUD SHADEL**... and **PETE PETERSON** offering applications for PN along with the newsletter. **HEINO RIPP** who put in 43 years, wasn't here to take well deserved plaudits as PN publisher and compositor, he was taping. **CHARLIE GARMET**... and **FITZGERALD SMITH**... **DICK WATT**, and many many more... **VAN KARDISH**... **DON LUFTIG**... **CHRIS BROWN**, a Today Show vet and a survivor... **ARTHUR GARY**... **FRED FAVANT**... **GLORIA CLYNE**, perennial helper for everyone. She may have been on the job even before Nipper, who has long since retired... Two **FARINETS**, **GENE** and **JUDY**... director **KATHLEEN GREENE**... and **BERNIE FLORMAN** of Today, who like Gloria went with the original lease at 30 Rock...

Last but by no means least, **ARIANE MAUTNER** and **DIANE MURPHY**, who make the evening's arrangements, and make it work so smoothly to these many years...

One wonderful night. Not to be missed. Three hours of "This is Your Life", and it's a chance for one more go-round each December. See you in '91

THE NEW 25 YEAR VETS:

Harold Alterman
Jeanette Ansaldi
Joseph P. Butler
Joseph D. Colvin
Leslie Dennis
John DeWald
Louis Fallot

Ellsworth Mosso
Paul G. Munch
Peter J. O'Grady
Michael Reitman
Ruben D. Ricardo
J. Walter Ryan
Carlo Fusco

Herbert Herzner
Garrick Utley
Ronee Hoade
Leon D. Wynn
Eric H. Cooperman
Joan Ryen
Jeff Samaha

40 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Ernest De Rosa
James J. McKearnin
Marcia Kuyper Schneider

Eugene T. Rowland
Rita Stipo

Bernard Florman
Nicholas Ponella
Charles Weller

A SHORT PIX TRIVIA



1. Who is this TV lady ?
2. What's the name of her partner ?
3. What special distinction did she achieve ?



You all know these 2 gentlemen ! ..

1. What was the date of their first show ?
2. Where did it emanate from ?
3. Who was the producer ?
4. Who was the Director ?
5. Who was their T.D.?

For Pix Trivia
answers
see Pge 18.

**COME JOIN THE GABFEST AT THE
N.B.C. Ham Net: 10 am Weekdays
14.242 mhz W5RFO Net Control**

Network Trivia by Dick Dudley

(We are regularly indebted to former announcer **Dick Dudley**, who is a faithful supplier of news and the material for our trivia feature. If you have Q's & As, that will interest PNers, Please send it in.)

1. What names did Freeman Gosden and Charles Corell use after beginning their radio careers as Sam and Henry?
2. What NBC pageboy became the director of a very successful Radio Show, starring Tallulah Bankhead?
3. Who was the producer of "I Bonino," "Playhouse '56," "Mr. Peepers," and "Philco Playhouse?"
4. Which NBC page boy, whose father was a famous violinist, became a Hollywood star?
5. What musical conductor known for his Goldwynisms, such as, "Who's sitting in that empty chair?" "Take five but hurry back!" "Don't watch my baton, watch my foot!" Had a brother with an all-girl orchestra?
6. Studio 8F, which no longer exists, had a panelled wall and a pseudo fireplace. It was built to make a cozy ambiance for one of our first ladies, who had a regular broadcast. Who was she?
7. Later, a newscaster used 8F. Hugh James was his announcer. who was the newscaster?
8. Back to question 3. "I Bonino originated from the Belsaco Theatre. Who was the Star?
9. The "All Star Revue," from the old Center Theatre (long gone) Had four comedian headliners. Who were they?

(OK. Dudley has posed some toughies, and didn't even give your editors a break. He put the answers in a sealed envelope! See page 16 for the answers...

Names.....Names.....Names.....

PN recently sent out a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of the membership so that retirees could contact old colleagues. Obviously, this is for personal use only -please. The list was sent to all paid-up members, so if you did not get the list, and somehow you got the PN Newsletter, your dues are delinquent. the low dues pays for the high expenses around here, so please get a check in the mail.

(Have you heard the one about the three European fishermen who were thrown out of their boat and into rough seas to be swallowed by two female whales and one male whale? The Europeans were a Czech, who was the captain, a German and a Russian. Rescuers scurrying about were trying to figure out which whale swallowed which man. One guy yelled, "The Czech is in the mail!" -- - well, you get to point.

GET YOUR DUES IN TO PETE --- please !

Guess who this is ? ? →

Stu MacGregory !



Letters, We get Letters TINKER REMEMBERS



(Note: Your editors enjoy getting mail and even more-so, we enjoy sharing many of the letters with PN members. So, if you're moved to reminisce, take pen in hand (Typewriter preferred) and scribble write us a note Got a photo? Send it along. and yes, we'll return it.)

SCHERER WRITES

Dear Pete,
You and Heino and Dan are doing a dandy job of keeping a lot of old fossils inter-connected.

I hooked up with NBC News Wash, in 1947, saw, and took part in the birth pangs of TV news, covered various presidents for Kintner, MaAndrew, Goodman and Company, was one of the pioneer convention floormen (1956), served as London correspondent from 1969 to '73, was persuaded to switch to RCA as vice president, Washington, in 1975, and filled the role until GE gobbled us all up in 1986.

Since then I have collaborated with Robert J. Donovan, once of the New York Herald Tribune and L.A. Times, on a book about the impact of the first 40 years of television news.

Until I saw your reprint of the clip from the Houston Post, I had forgotten that my 1965 birthday at the Gemini 4 space shot wound up with the piano, deep-sixed into the motel pool. Chet Huntley (who pushed it in) had no equal at whomping up a party!

There are a few of us graybeards left in Wash. D.C. area. Mayhap you will want to hold one of your annual bashes down here.

Ray Scherer

MINI LUNCH AT PICCO

We will have our next **Mini Lunch** at the popular Picco Lissimo Restaurant on Route 9, Ft. Lee, N.J., a mile South of the Geo Wash. Bridge, on **Tuesday June 4th at 12:30 pm.**

(Ed note: On the occasion of a memorial service for John Curran, once of the announcer's department, Grant Tinker wrote to Bob Wogan of NBC Radio, who arranged the service. Wogan kindly shares the letter with us. It's excerpted.)

Dear Bob,

Another great one is gone. You won't remember the moment as clearly as I do, but I was dumped on you in early 1949 by Ted Thompson or maybe Doris Ann. You were in charge of Night Operations for the Radio Network, and John was your lieutenant. Thank God for that, because his smiling Irish demeanor was the only thing that made bearable your own Captain Queeg-like approach to ruling the rest of us on the 2nd floor. The rest of us included Audrey Hance and Pat Kelly and Al Stetson and a wonderful group of directors and announcers who are largely in other places today. Working with all of those people nights and weekends remains one of my most vivid NBC memories, as well as one of my most pleasant. There was a combination of professionalism and camaraderie that now seems to have been peculiar to those times. I think that all of us who were fortunate enough to be part of that era recall it with a sense of family -- an early NBC spirit.

John Curran epitomized that spirit, and he will live on easily in our memories. He may have left us, but isn't it simple to conjure up that Irish face, changing from happy to sad to confused to worried and inevitably back to happy?

Best, Grant [Tinker]

more Letters Page 10.

THE SILVER FOX REMEMBERS

by Wayne Howell.

You'll find more of these throughout the paper.

(excerpted from NBC Fla. Retirees)
(Editors note: Wayne, best known for his performances on Jerry Lesters riotous late-night "Broadway Open House," has had a long and interesting career in Radio and Telly. It'nuff for a book, so we've condensed.)

Working at WLAC, Nashville, in pre-WW11 days, he rented a room to a station newsman and every night Wayne would say "Good Night, David." Yes his tenant was David Brinkley...

MAILBAG

6.

Dec.14, 1990... **RONNIE ADAMS** [like Walt Werner, another 1st. class video man] writes from Florida, near St. Pete.:

"I've been meaning to write; always put it off for one reason or another, but finally I decided to join up.

I'll be up in NYC from the 20th to 27th December to see some of the kids for Christmas and maybe visit NBC.

I will not be able to attend the Florida group this year since the dates were changed and you know that Feb is my time slot for my time share apartment in Acapulco. I've been going there for 12 years now, so I feel kind of disappointed with the change.

I have a part time job with the Customs Service. I've been doing it almost 3 years. Very interesting work and having had a background in police work, helped. I've also lost 64 lbs. and am now a size 34-36, and 180 lbs. Some difference from past years!

Early this month **Mike Rosar** [TD] passed away from cancer. I went to his funeral. **JIM BLANEY** [ex audio, now a deacon] said the mass. He came down special from NY for it. Also saw **JOE LINDEN, MIKE MADIGAN, BILL KENNY, BALDY** [Walter Balderson] at the mass. **LINDERMAN** [Bob] had a stroke and isn't too well so he didn't attend.

Last week I went to Joe Linden's house for dinner. All the same people were there except Blaney & Linderman. Joe has a beautiful house - also **Ron Levy** and wife came to visit him. We had a super time.

Please send my regards to all my friends. It's a great life down here - so different from NY. **CAL BROADHEAD** is coming down to see his kids the 20th. They live in Englewood, N.J. and Tampa, Fla

Regards, Ron.

p.s. The paper is a real pro job. Rippy is doing it up right ---say hello to him." --- [thanks Ron, got your msg. --For those who don't know Ron, For years, he used to do video, camera earlier, on the **TODAY SHOW**, which meant being in every day at midnight. What most people don't know is that when he got home, he used to be on call with the First Aid, Ambulance Corps, in his community. Whenever there was an accident or disaster or need of first aid, Ron would be at the scene. Not having enough to take care of, he also adopted a child into his family. I don't ever remember hearing of him not being in on time, despite not having much, or any sleep, putting in exhausting hours, doing volunteer life saving duties, in addition to his own family duties. Yet he always did a "class" job at work. Heino]



Circa 1950, "Robert Montgomery Presents" was an hour dramatic program emanating from 8H. The studio had been converted from Toscaninni's Concert Hall to a TV studio. Claude Traverse was the Scenic Designer and made a composite Christmas card from photos taken during the productions. Buddy Shadel, a cameraman then, most recently a Video Tape Group Six, found this photo, and we thought it might bring back a lot of fond memories. First: Robert Montgomery, the Host. At top - 1. Jim McKiernan, stage carpenter, 2. R/corner, the back of cameraman, Buddy Shadel, 3. Frank Weill, camera w/pipe, 4. Bott/R corner, Lighting Director, Bob Davis, with T.D. Larry Lockwood and Bob Daniels, then T.D. of The Hit Parade, 5. Bott/lft cor. Jim Culley, 6. Up to Bill Haynes, camera, 7. Frank MacArdle, the T.D. 8. Agnew Horine; In center below Montgomery, are young Tom Williams, Irv Ehrlich and on the "Fearless Dolly" camera, Dave Geisel. Again I have to apologize for not being able to identify all the others.

PEOPLE 4

IDA MASONE says spouse **AL** [telecine] was a Christmas present many, many years ago. He was born on Christmas day. [Ripp's son Robbie also arrived on Christmas. Rob lives in Hawaii, his dad, retired and all, lives in cold N.J., and shovels snow. Isn't that supposed to be the other way around ?] **ROBERT (Doc) POTTER** and spouse doing it up at Sarasota. They recall meeting with **AL SZAROWICZ** and wife, **GEORGE DELUGOS** and **AL VITUCCI**. Recent holidays took the Potters to Bermuda and Virginia Beach. Doc says he's celebrated 46 years of married bliss with his English war bride (I got one too, but she was just six during the war, Doc). Doc says "73's and 88's" to all his ham radio chums (that means so long and love and kisses in ham talk). FYI your editor is N2FLR and pres of Westchester Amateur Radio Assn.)

Another big time traveller, **MARJORIE SHIELDS**, spent two weeks in Hawaii, followed by a week in Frisco last fall. She planned a seven day cruise in January and a month in China in the spring. Marjorie says she "loves retirement". (Boy with travel plans like that, who wouldn't)....

GLADYS and **JOE KOLB** (Tech Supr) who have been commuting between Virginia and Long Island, are planning a three month trip to either Mexico or the southwestern USA. They'll be travelling in their trailer, living in it, and hope to visit with many NBC'ers on that trek which will keep them on the road 'till April.... **JOHN RICE** and spouse **ALLISON** are taking a winter holiday in Tarpon Springs, Fl. They'd like to unload their home in Upper Saddle River since they de their summering in Cape May, N.J..... **MORTY** and **MILLICENT ARONOFF** also do long range planning on their trips. They spent ten weeks in the Bahamas, he was getting alternative cancer care, and it worked beautifully, says Mort. Next, they're off to Costa Rica and Toronto (does he have a map?) and winter plans include Oaxaca, Mexico through January and the Florida Reunion in February, then back to Freeport in the Bahamas for what Mort calls a health "tune up". In March, it's Hawaii. April in New Zealand. (That's gonna make some travel agent very happy too !)

WALTER WERNER [one of the first "color" video men at the Colonial Theater] writes from Cocoa Beach that the Space Coast is getting very active again and the big firecrackers" are going off quite frequently. His ocean view balcony is six miles, line of sight, from most launch pads. Walt was a Navy pilot, flying PBY's during WWII. He is active with the Navy League, often entertaining U.S. and British submarine and bigger warships crews, and makes the occasional trip as a sea-going VIP. He finds retirement a much better deal than working at NBC. PN sends greetings to **SOPHIE**, Walt's wife, who was in costuming at NBC...

Another voice heard from on those 1960 political conventions back in LA and Chicago. **STU MacGREGORY**, who kindly sends along his congrats for the fine paper, Stu was overall Convention Unit Manager. He'll never forget the odor of the stockyards (yeah, it was bad Stu, but the steaks were good, as I remember them), and his assignment problems. Seems he put daily A.D. and Stage Manager orders in Hotel mail boxes and some of the ninnies could never figure out if the cubby hole numbers referred to the room above or below. The result, a lot of guys failed to show up for assignments because they figured Stu had not left them an assignment. One guy didn't show up for three days ! (But Stu, I could tell all your grief vanished, being part of the "Como" road tour; and taping Kraft Music Hall in Bk'lyn for 24 + hrs, then cutting cont'd pge.

PEOPLE 5.

Pge 8.

thru 1/4 inch ice around our car door to enter, then driving home that Easter Sunday morning , thru deep snow, with only a 3" peep hole in the windshield we managed to hack away, hoping we wouldn't fall asleep. Tough. Wouldn't have missed it, right Stu, but I must say, that it was you and your good humor that made all those jobbies fun for us all ! .. Heino)

Did we say travel? **BOB JUNCOSA** [video] and wife **DIANE** put out their own annual newsletter from Foresthill, Calif. and it is chock a block with their ramblings. I think they cover more miles a year than most airline pilots, and more variety, although they never seem to make a sojourn via a hot air baloon ! After you read this, you'll realize that they must have looked up the definition of "retirement".

Last year's travels included a week at St. Maarten in the Caribbean, thence to Florida for a visit with **HAROLD** and **RONNIE MOFSEN**, The NBC Florida Retirees bash at Port St. Lucie, to **LOU** and **MADELYN FERARRA's** at Bay Hills in Orlando, to the west coast of Fla. to see **WALT BALDERSON** and the **BILL MILLERS**, then south to Marco Island to touch base with **JOAN & FRED SMITH**.

The Juncosas returned home to wash their linen and then in May made a three week drive through Europe. Then tick off LA and Reno. October ? To South Padre Island off Texas. Then back to the Caribbean for a 10 day sail including St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Tobago Keys. For 1991 they'll try Singapore, the Phillipines and Hong Kong.

They probably give a nice course on "How to Pack for your next Trip".

Sometimes this spring when you go to the movies to see "True Colors", (title subject to change because of a conflict with a tv series), the credits will read "John Cusack/James Spader/Richard Widmark/Dina Merrill/Peter Hackes..." Peter who? Yes our man in Washington, well former man like most of us, has a bit role in the flick in a scene with Widmark, who tongue-lashes Pete with the expletive, "Don't give me that s---!" And when we say "bit" player, we mean *bit*. John Cusack is the brother of **JOAN CUSACK** of NBC. Pete, who worked the Washington beat for News for a couple of decades, still lives there, and is a neighbor of **PAUL DUKE**, another former newsman seen now on PBS. Pete keeps busy twice a week in PR for the AARP, he also does voice overs and VNRs, and he's just sent in his check for membership !

A check in the mail from **RAY SCHERER**, a long time News correspondent and later an RCA vice pres., who lives in retirement in Wash DC (See Ray's letter elsewhere)... **DICK DUDLEY**, a diligent PN newsletter contributor, is busy soliciting the retired announcing staff for PN recruits, among them **BILL HANRAHAN**, **FRED COLLINS**, **MEL BRANDT** and **ARTHUR GARY** (between 'em there must be 130 odd years of NBC) service... **DELBERT MANN** informs Dudley that HBO has purchased rights to the 1950 Bob & Ray radio shows, which haven't aired since that day. Dick says he and **BOB DENTON** were the announcers, but he does not recall who the engineers were. Do you know ?... Former newsman **JOE MEEHAN** reading our "Whatever Happened to" feature, writes: **SHAD NORTHSHIELD** is still at CBS, lives in Croton on the Hudson...

Whatever Happened to ...

Well our "Whatever Happened To..." column has borne some fruit. **ANDREW HAMMERSCHMIDT**, former Engineering VP and Development Engineer, who retired in 1979 found his name listed and hastened to write and bring us up to date. He lives in Hilton Head Island, S.C., and has three major time consumers: his computer, his golf and his Ham radio. Andy says "operating a computer may be one of the world's worst time consumers, but I find it stimulating." On golf, he plays it like most of us, poorly", and he speaks with chums on his ham radio. His call is W2VV, an ancient one and proof of that is the fact that the American Relay League sent him a plaque last October to mark his 60th year in the hobby. Correct, 60. He joins a daily RCA retirees net at 7.168 mhrz at 9:30 am, EST. and also dabbles in Morse code conversations. He tells us he has a photo shot in studio 3H in 1946 [now 3K] and among the 57 people in the shot, is Heino Ripp. [We have heard a lot of the "Patriot missile" lately and have watched the video coming from the bombs deployed by U.S. planes in Iraq, well during the WWII Andy and many of the people in that photo in 3H built probably the first version of "Star Wars" technology. And they said it wouldn't work ?]

Yes Andy, I know that photo and would like to use it in the newsletter. [H.R.]

We find the names of these stragglers in the NBC 25 year club book, and if we think they'd be worthy additions to the PN roster, we list them!

Rich Ballard (Newswriter)
Joe Bernstein (Unit manager)
Cal Brodhead (TV audio)
Clay Cassell (EJ Editor)
Robert Dunbar (Couriers)
Marvin Einhorn (Director)
Catherine Faulconer (Newswriter)
Bill Hanrahan (Announcer)
Joe Angotti (Producer)
Bob Priaulx (Director)

THE YEAR:
1957

The PLACE:
Outside 30 Rock.

At one time or another, we all have been on strike or involved in some labor actions, so did the McPhillips'.

The McPhillips family

with

The CAST :
ROSEMARY,
HUGH,
MAUDE,

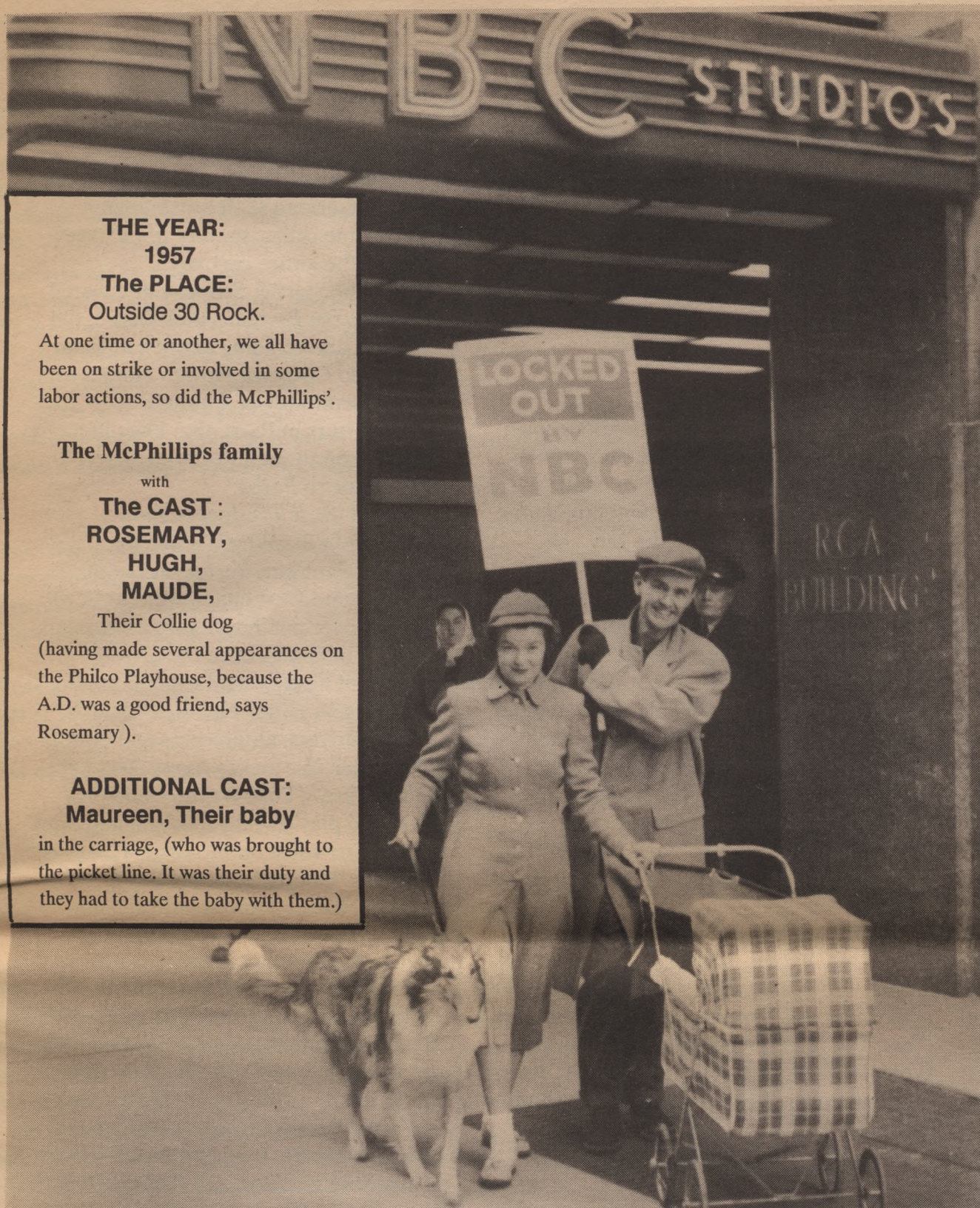
Their Collie dog

(having made several appearances on the Philco Playhouse, because the A.D. was a good friend, says Rosemary).

ADDITIONAL CAST:

Maureen, Their baby

in the carriage, (who was brought to the picket line. It was their duty and they had to take the baby with them.)



ROSEMARY QUIGLEY McPHILLIPS was the wife of Emmy-Award winning actor /Director Hugh McPhillips who joined NBC in 1959. Hugh died last August in California. Rosemary also worked at NBC. (letter is excerpted).

Dear Pete,

I am not yet out from under the insurance forms and the condolence recognitions, but I want to get in my membership form.

They say "*never one door closes but another opens*", and that's the way I feel about the opportunity to make contact again with friends from "My Favorite Year", and the job I'd have paid NBC to perform.

My heart has certainly been with you-all far longer than a quarter of a century. I retired to "apple pie and motherhood" in the boonies in 1957 -the thing women did then. The Marcia Kuyper Schneiders and Ann Keeleys were the exception. I envy them and advise my own daughters to hang in there.

My connection to "the business" has been a radio "stringer" for WRKL in Rockland County where I worked nights for six years. Still have an honorary withdrawal card from the old union which preceded the DGA.

Bob (Bobo) Bartinik came to the west coast memorial service for Hugh. He was on the camera crew on my first show -"Four Star Review" with Danny Thomas, Martha Raye, Ed Wynne and Jack Carson. Two dead and two pitching denture products.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Quigley McPhillips ----- Suffern, New York

more LETTERS: cont'd fm Pg

MEL SMITH: Now V.P., Programming for Tribune Entertainment in Chicago, worked at NBC in Washington and New York from 1964-69 in Engineering. He's an ardent newsletter fan).

Dear Dan and Heino,

You are to be congratulated for the excellent and professional look of Peacock North. The stories of the memories and recollections on NBC people and programs are forming a valuable record of the important pioneer days. I'd love to see more of the oldie photos.

I gained a lot of respect for the talent and spirit of the crews. A lot of that, of course is missing today. I learned to improve my camera skills from **Al Camoin**, and I tried to bring my standards of performance somewhere near **Heino Ripp**.

One of my first assignments as summer relief in '64 was to do video on the Tonight Show. I'd never done color video before. **Tony Nelle** was senior video and almost immediately cued me in: "Watch it Smith, camera three is going magenta!" Then, just like **Vern Kerrick** had shown me at the World's Fair operation, I just "painted" around on facial colors until it looked right. I still don't know what color magenta is. Thanks Tony for carrying me. The next night Tony had me "promoted" to audio assist to **Bob Bugg**. Bob was a good sound guy but he didn't know what color magenta was either. My kind of guy!

By the way, tell Ken Arber, Sr. that Lamont Cranston was the character's name who *became* The Shadow. In fact Ken, Orson Welles *was* the first radio voice of the Shadow, followed by Bill Johnstone, Steve Cortley, John Archer and finally, Brent Morrison. (Us Shadow fans know "What evil lurks in the hearts of men!" Old radio drama is a hobby of mine. Of course, Ken had to teach me what an "RCH" was when TP-ing a TK41. (Editor's note: What did he say?))

Thanks guys, you were really nice to a guy from South Carolina who wanted to learn.

Mel Smith

Join NBC Florida Retirees

Send 7.00 to H.L.Folkerts

1942 SE Erwin Road

Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34952.

Don't miss what's happening

in the entire ex NBC Family

more LETTERS

MORE ON THE SHADOW

(**STU MacGREGORY** writes, after seeing Ken's Korner in our last issue. Stu never worked "The Shadow", but he was a sound effects man on "The Light of the World, the Day to Day Story of the Bible", before joining Unit Mgrs., Stu spent 42 years at 30 Rock, 1941-1983)

Dear Dan,

The Shadow is, in reality Lamont Cranston, wealthy young man-about-town who, years ago in the Orient, learned the hypnotic power to cloud men's minds so they could not see him. Cranston's companion was the lovely Margo. By the way, the opening theme music was Omphale's Spinning Wheel. On the radio, James La Curto was first to play the Shadow, then Frank Readick, Robert Hardy Andrews, and in 1937, Orson Welles, with a Shakespearean rumble, until 1939. (Then he frightened all of us with "War Of The Worlds, and all those Martians over at Grovers Plains, New Jersey). Next it was Bill Johnstone until 1944 when Bret Morrison took over. Morrison had been Mr. First Nighter who always visited The Little Theater off Times Square.

As for Margo, she was played by Gertrude Werner, Marjorie Anderson and Agnes Moorhead. The show's Brooklyn-born cab driver was Shrevie, played by Alan Reed (nee Teddy Bergman) who later was the voice of Fred Flintstone. And finally, police commissioner Weston was played by Santos Ortega.

Stu

(Ed note: When you drop a wrong name in this paper, boy are you going to hear about it going to hear about it - from ten guys who were there when the show originated !)



More letters

The "Fox" # 2:

"I was drafted into the 178th Combat Engineers Battalion in WW11, we went in before the Infantry. Our outfit received battle stars and Presidential commendation. During the Battle of the Bulge, a German shell broke open a nearby wine cellar, so most of us stayed "tiddely" the entire campaign.

Reading Stars & Stripes I discovered that when the Russians took Berlin, the Americans were going to open a Radio Station. So Corporal Howell {me} wrote Gen. Eisenhower at Supreme Headquarters in Paris, that I would be the ideal person to send to Berlin. They ordered me to Paris!

Later I did a disc Jockey show "Midnight in Frankfurt." when the Russians went into Berlin, eleven of, including one Lieutenant, went to Berlin. We took over one house for a station, the other for billeting--once the 22 room mansion of heavyweight champion Max Schmeling, A Hitler Favorite. I had 2 German drivers, at ten cents an hour!..I did another disc jockey show, "Midnight in Frankfurt." (That Wayne could pick titles), did play-by-play football, and mine was the first voice on the Army Hour. All I said was "Good afternoon, this is Corporal Wayne Howell in Berlin and here is General Lucius Clay." It wasn't much but my mother loved it...I was discharged from the Army, came to New York, and tried out for the program called "Welcome Home Auditions." I asked the guy in charge how I did. He said "alright," but there are no jobs open. He was disinterested because he was about to quit anyway. Next day I applied for his job as an associate director, and that dear man Wynn Wright hired me at \$70 a week. My first directing job was in studio 3A, on--catch this-- The Benny Goodman Show, starring Victor Borge. They were both prima donnas and that's how NBC settled the title problem. **Ben Grauer** was the announcer and helped me no end. I miss him.....

NEW HAM NET FOR NORTHERN AREA

40 METERS: WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

10:30 a.m. 7242 Kc.

W2SNM - DAVE HUBBY
as NET CONTROL

CALL IN AND SAY Hi !

LETTER rec'd in Jan & Feb

Most letters have been edited a bit.

From **FRANK O'KEEFE**: My son Dennis, after a long and successful career as an award winning photo journalist, has switched over to video, owning his own production Co. His credits appear on "48 Hours". The show has taken him everywhere; the states, Russia, and less than 2 weeks before hostilities started, was in Saudi Arabia. We're glad he got out when he did. Brian O'Keefe, my nephew works on "48 Hours" as a researcher and outside producer. **Frank also send us this timely poem feeling it especially relates to us retirees.**

Time Study

There was a time when time stood still
I was a youngster then you know
Impatience was my problem
And time just went too slow

I wasted time, not time well spent
And as the time went by
The vagaries of time crept in
And no longer young am I

Oh time, time irreversible time
Can't I put you on hold ?
Why do you seem to accelerate
When I am growing old ?

Frank O'Keefe

FRED (Red) McKINNON (Lighting Director w/ The Klages Group)(who lighted the Max Liebman color Spectaculars in the 1950's) also writes a note with his dues.

All is well with the gang still working; myself, **BILL KLAGES**, and **GEORGE REISENBERGER**. Guess we don't know when to quit, or still enjoy this crazy biz.

Was great seeing some of my Peacock brothers at the "Goodwill Games" in Seattle, Wash. Good old friends and good old stories.(too bad Hurley's wasn't close)

I must mention again how much I look forward to the Newsletter. News of my long time friends at NBC is a great pick-up for me, as I still live with the early years of Television.

Hoping to clear my schedule for March 5 Mini-Lunch in the East.

Regards, best of everything to all.

Good Friend, "Red" McKinnon

STU MacGREGORY answers

"What Ever Happened To...":

GORDON DUFF (TV director in 48, and 50's) has passed away at the age of 66 in 1974.

SHAD NORTHSHIELD is at CBS steering "Sunday Morning".

LETTERS cont'd

JIM FOX (Unit Mgr) is still at

Irvington-on-The Hudson.... Bumped in to **JULIAN GOODMAN** at the Larchmont Post Office, clad for spring, I said "you are certainly hale and hearty". Julian said, "We don't wear heavy clothes in Florida". He and Beth live around the corner from me, are keeping their house here hoping to get a better price for it, and have moved to Jupiter, Fla. I asked for his address and he produced a postcard with same.

It's a small world! It was so good to talk with you last night! I treasure memories of our wonderful association together.

Best, *Stewart*

(Stu, those are my sentiments, our memories are treasures! Also we'll send Julian a copy of the Newsletter, I know he was well liked and "unbeknownst" to him, I know everyone felt comfortable when he was around. Heino)

(Stu) was at the Christ Church in Bronxville, started my 30th year serving as a sub-Deacon at the Eucharist, also train the Acolytes and the Lay Readers. Was appointed the "Sacristan" ab't 4 yrs ago, am now in charge of all the services , the weddings and funerals. Guess I'll never get out of the business of being a production Manager.

One Sunday after the 10am Eucharist, whilst taking off my vestments, an Alter Guild Lady came in and (not what you may be thinking) said there was a gentleman to see you. None other than Peter Fatovich. We both worked on the Jack Paar Show, Sundays. **PETER FATOVICH** has moved to Sagamore Road. Looks great. Has been "bought out", but in retiring, now works 5 days a week in studio 6B with **Hal Gurnee** doing The Letterman Show. Sound familiar? (exactly what he was doing before retiring!

My present work at the church is most rewarding - and occasionally very tiring for an old fossil, who is in his 74th year !..... *Stu*

TED NATHANSON has retired as a

producer/director, NBC Sports, writes **CISSY LINDEMANN** Requested we send him membership form. He lives in NYC. Am still slugging it out at the Museum of Broadcasting.... **BILLY KIDD** (Tech Ops Chi) writes: Enjoy reading about everyone.

Saw **John Russo** and his wife in Chi, went to the All Star Hockey Game, got a chance to see and talk with some of the guys. By the way, **Scott McLeod** passed away near the end of the year.... From Medina, Ohio, **HERB POSNIK** says he's settling in and enjoying his new Home on 3 1/2 acres out in the sticks 30 miles South of Cleveland, Ohio. Says **RALPH FILES** also has a new home in Manorville, N.Y. Enjoys reading PN.

LETTERS cont'd

very much. A foto of the house is included (see "castle" in foto section). Have a lot of work waiting in the spring, it certainly beats the "F" train. Am enjoying retirement; haven't been bored one single day. *Herb* (Electronic Mtce)

From **JIM BLANEY** (Audio) Expect to be a Fla. resident on Oct 1st. Have been working at the Nickelodeon Studios at Universal in Orlando for Richie Phillips (Warren's son, lastly NBC NY TVC and Korean Olympics). Photo shows **CARMEN PICCIOCCIO** and I on the set. Pix by Dick Weiss, formerly ABC L.D.,NYC.(see photo area)

Will spend summer in NY. Am still a deacon with the church & have baptisms and weddings to perform this summer. Youngest daughter **Teresa** will be married Sept. 21. Best to all PN'ers, see you at April lunch... **HAROLD McDERMOTT** (electronic Mtce) and spouse Julie think we're doing a great job with "Peacock No." We both enjoy reading it and look forward to the next issue. We're both fine and enjoying retirement, keeping busy around the house, & playing golf, weather permitting as they say. Daughter Clare was married Nov. 17. We are now poorer but wiser. (kidding of course, well half..)..
DON PIKE (Tech Super) sends his dues with a note: I'm in our little farm here in Florida for 6 months. The remainder is spent at our home in North Carolina, where I play cornet with the chapel Hill Symphony Orchestra. Lotsa good fun !
DICK AIMONE has been ill and indicates things are under control and is planning to attend some of the PN affairs. Still keeping busy with Senior clubs, treasurer of AARP chapter, Pres of a satellite outfit, and thanksgiving had us on a 7 day cruise in the Caribbean....

Thoroughly enjoyed "Oktoberfest" and looking forward to others. Having the bulk of winter to get through, we're having thoughts of spring, flower catalogs and dreams of a new station at this QTH (ham talk for home) to see us through. So says **JOE STURNIOLO**.... **PERRY MASSEY**, living in Woodland Hills, Ca. had a wrap party for him in studio 5, has retired on Jan 1 after 41 years with NBC. **BRANDON TARTIKOFF** and many industry people joined in on the "roast". That month Perry travelled to Pittsburgh, Pa. to do a Freelance consulting job for Group W. Travelling and visiting consumes a great part - cont'd Pge

LETTERS - P.Massey cont'd

of Massey's time. In November, Perry did his first pro "voice over" announcing job for the CBS series OVER MY DEAD BODY.

Looks to do more of that. On Nov. 18 they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Perry & Pam send best wishes for a great New Year....

A short note from **JOE HEWES** saying his wife Fran and Joe are doing great in western South Carolina. Really enjoy reading the Newsletter and keeping up with what's happening with many long time friends. Please extend best wishes to Gene, Heino and all.

RUSS TORNABENE is looking for an address for **Frank Blair**. From exchanging letters with **Roy Neal** from No. Carolina, Frank is supposed to be in No. or So. Carolina. I understand Roy has been a "radio ham" for 55 years. (Started awfully young of course). I met the net recently, sitting in the shack in Wilmette, next town over. On that day were Ev Geiger, Bob Higgins and others. It was a most pleasant one hour experience to listen in, and sometimes join in the gab. (Personally, I've never owned a rig or had a call sign; was in the signal corps in both WWII and the Korean War, so know a little about condensers, resistors and such things). Glad to see PN is growing, and like the photos too.... Speaking of "Hams", **PAUL KIRRKAMM** (Wash, D.C.), living in Silver Springs, Md. wishes all a Happy New Year, and thought he'd let you-all know that he has become a Ham radio operator to pass some of the time of retirement! His call is **KA3WPZ** and he hangs around on 40 and 80 mostly on CW. Hopes to meet some of the NBC gang on the air. (Congrats Paul! See NBC net frequency and times elsewhere in newsletter, H.). In same vein, **HERB OXMAN** just returned from Fla. and managed to visit **DORIS** and **WALT VETTER**. Haven't seen each other for about 10 years. If anyone wants to contact Herb through "Electronic Mail", he's on **GENIE** and his address is: H.Oxman... More of the same vein, **DICK DANIELS**, (audio Video) wants to tell all "Prodigy" subscribers his ID is **RHTM58A**. Get on and say Hello. Says the Newsletter is great reading and Heino did a terrific job as publisher. (Thanks, Dick, H.). **RALPH DICHTER** saw the Nov. issue of PN, he liked it so much he joined PN. Timing hasn't been right to enable him to get to PN's get togethers, but will try to work it out. Ralph joined NBC in 1948, worked 1st in Kine Recording. Was severely ill in 89. Doc said I had 6 mo. more left. (Cause I didn't pay bill, he gave me 6 mos. more). After all medicines were removed, my immune system straightened out.

REMEMBRANCES of THE PAST

by Dick Dudley

(We're lucky that it's winter and cold outside at the farm, for Dick Dudley has time to write us these fascinating memories, P.N.)

GUEST RELATIONS

Early in 1938, I arrived in the Big Apple with all good intentions of becoming the greatest actor since Edwin Booth held Jorick's skull. Through luck or magnificent talent, which I thought I possessed, at the age of 23, I was chosen for a small part in a Broadway play during my first week in N.Y.C. The Drama was entitled: "Ringside Seat", and I'll give a recording of Rosemary singing the National Anthem to anyone who saw it.

The star was Grant Mitchell who you will see now and then if you watch old movies on TV (Trivia: Who was the husband of Billy Burke in "The Man Who Came to Dinner"? Answer: Grant Mitchell.

Here I was fresh from Nashville, Tennessee performing in the Guild Theater where Lunt and Fontane had reigned. Where o'Neill's monumental drama had seen the footlights of day, and long matinees!

Telegrams arrived from family and friends and all my fellow actors bid me: "Break a leg". After reading the reviews, I felt more like John Wilkes Booth, who did break a leg, than Edwin. "Ringside Seat" ran seven performances.

It was then that I decided that I was needed more by the Radio industry than by the theater; and once again luck was with me. On Christmas eve, 1938, I started my new career as a page on the Guest Relations staff of NBC. My first chore was to "stand in" in 8H where the Children of NBC Employees party was taking place. All of the stars of the children's programs were performing. Madge Tucker, Irene Wicker - the Singing Lady, and Jolly Bill Steinke, the Willard Scott of his day was playing Santa. (I would rather have been down in Hurley's sipping on a wassail).

To acquire a position on the G R in those days, I was told, one had to have either great talent or a famous father. Some of the pages had both. I suppose I was tapped because of my 8 year experience at WSM in Nashville or because Mr. **George Nelson** took a liking to me. He was sort of a father to us all and sent cards to us on birthdays.

On my first day aboard, I was welcomed by each of the pages and guides, in turn. One shook my hand and introduced himself as **Effram Zimbalist**. I thought he was pulling my leg and I told

him I was Jascha Heifetz. He looked puzzled, because he was E.Z. Jr. There were other sons - **Henry Hull, Jr.**, Admiral Halsey's offspring, **Dale Bryan Owen** the grandson of William Jennings Bryan.

On the talent side, there were many such as **Earl Wrightson**, **Gordon McCrea**, **Regis Philbin**, **Susan St. James**, **Eva Marie Saint**, **Arthur Gary**, **George Ansbro**, **Jack McCarthy**, **Dee Englebach**. Do you remember the latter? He became the director of the very succesful Sunday Afternoon Tallulah Bankhead radio show - which topped the ratings in spite of the fact that most people were out playing polo on Sunday afternoon.

There was **Gene Rubessa** who did well under the name of **Gene Raburn**, and a fellow named **Phil Falcone** who did well under the name of **Phil Falcone**. **Bob Keeshan** changed his name to Captain Kangaroo after doing a stint as Clarabelle on the Howdy Doody Show.

I advanced up the ladder to the announcing dept. along with **Bill Malcolm**, **Roger Tuttle**, **Buckey Koslow**, **Tom O'Brien** and **John Curran**. Some Pages went down the ladder to become Vice Presidents.

If my memory serves me correctly, all who follow served apprenticeship at the University of Guest Relations. **Peter Tintle**, **Paul Rittenhouse**, **Max Russel**, **Tom Velotta**, **Gloria Clyne**, **Carl Watson**, **Howard Bayha**, **Jim Gaines**, **Dave Handler**, **George Heineman**, **Bill Patterson**, **Steve White**, **Bob Wogan**, **Ed Letty**, **Norm Cash**, **Stu MacGregory**, **Ray O'Connel**, **Carl Cannon**, **Keene Crockett**, **Russ Martindale**, **Don Mercer**, **Kirk Quinn**.

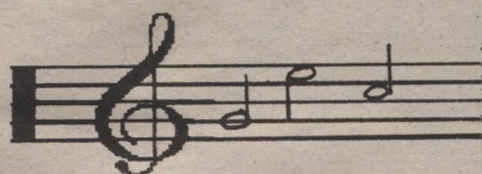
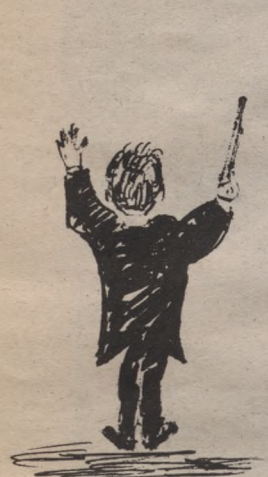
How's that for name dropping? If you were omitted, drop us a line and pay your dues to Peacock North.

(Oh yes, Remember that tall doorman walking in front of the Radio City Music Hall? He wasn't one of us, but he was impressive. I think his name was **Gregory Peck**.)

Dick

OLD BONES

Remember back when you were in High School, and the chemistry teacher said the human body was worth about 97 cents. (Before inflation). That was the value of the various chemicals in our body. Ninety-seven cents as a teen-ager, but now that you've aged the value must be up. Why? Well, old folks are worth a fortune because of the **SILVER** in their hair, the **GOLD** in their teeth, the **STONES** in their kidneys, and the **LEAD** in their feet, and the **GAS** in their stomachs.



P. N. MEMBERS' PHOTOS

George Newell at the piano with his pride and joy, the 10 piece band, (for which he also writes the arrangements). Oft times he uses a quintet with one a vocalist, other times he leads the trio from the piano (foto at right), with the guitarist a vocalist. Most recently he appeared at Llewellyn Farms, a fancy restaurant in Morris County. The ensembles play "Quiet Jazz for Quiet Dancing"... If that isn't enough, he subs as organist at his church; plays timpani and drums with West Morris Community Concert Band and currently conducts a Hello Dolly production at Morris Knolls High School.... George left NBC in July 1981 to build and manage a UHF station in Tampa; then returned to NJ to "Independent" production.



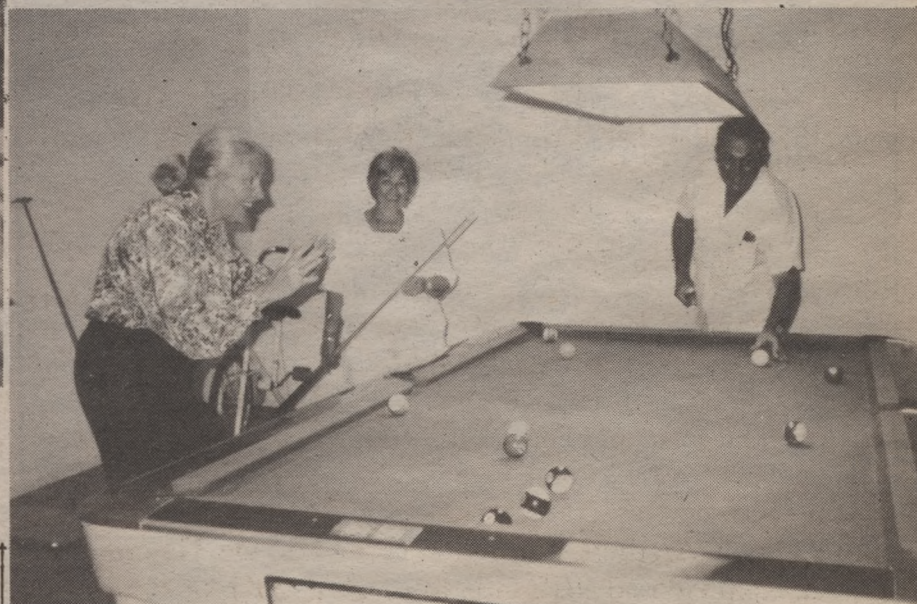
From Bob Asman, a slide from the Gemini (IV) series: Left to right: Ron Steinman, still an NBC producer, Gene Waldstein, AD fm NY, Tony Messuri, Director and Bill ___, an AD.



Herb Posnik's new home in Medina, Ohio, 30 miles south of Cleveland. Herb was a quiet fellow from electronic Mtce, who went quietly fixing things, so it's no wonder he moved to the sticks country. Looks terrific Herb. The best ! Rippy and the PN gang



In the "set", Jim Blaney and Carmine Piccioccio, an audio team again, hard at work at Universal in Orlando for Nickelodeon, for Richie Phillips, (ex NBC management Master control). It's a small, small world !



Retirement should be for having fun !
June Carlton, Peg Peterson and Lee Carlton practicing retirement.

N.B.C. Ham Net: 10 am Weekdays
14.242 mhz W5RFO Net Control

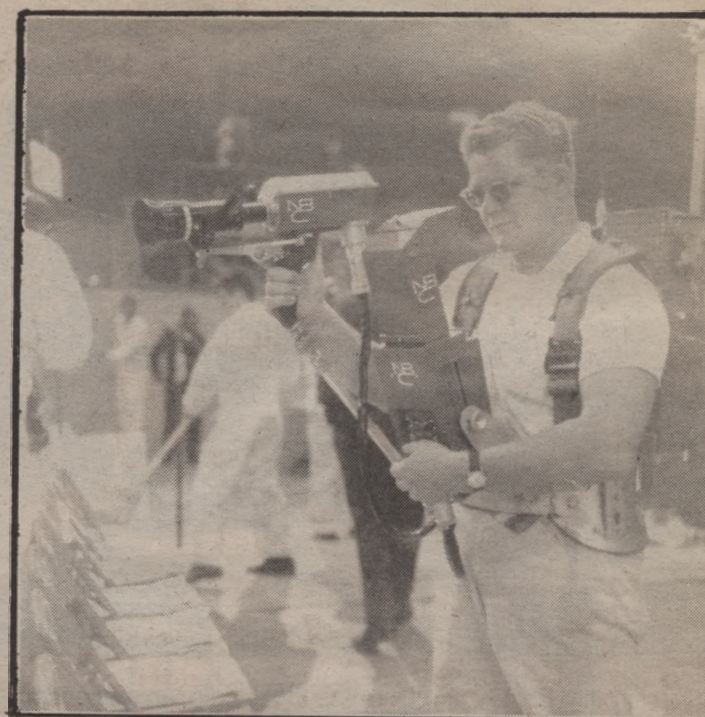
P.N. ROTOGRAVURE

ON THE GROUND IN SPACE

Thinner and harier,
Four NBC newsmen in
a trailer on a space
shot assignment in
the early sixties in
Cape Canavaral.
Left to right :
Mort Hochstein,
Joe Meehan,
Dennis Dalton and
Don Meany. Joe says
he thinks it was on
the Mercury series.
Having retired from
the United Nations
(mandatory at 60).
Joe is teaching "Global
Communications and
World Affairs at
Columbia Graduate School
of International Affairs"
and an additional
course in International
reporting, at the
undergrad school.



Bill Smyth at left and **Tony Nelle** at right,
with the commandeered "Mobile Unit" in Korea. Bill left NBC tech
ops many years ago, don't know where he is at present. Tony
retired a few years ago, as a color video man, still lives in this area,
is becoming an expert sailor.



Ben Franklin (Yes, that's his real name) with one of the first mini-cams, at I believe the 1956 Democratic convention in Chicago. At
least he used to eat his "Wheaties" to be able to carry all that gear
around for the convention week. Quel difference, from today's hand
held units !

Memories



Perry Como did several years of Live TV programs emanating from major cities. At each location we built separate audio & video control rooms, like the conventions. Above we see **Neal Smith** at his console he designed and built. No retakes, all **LIVE**. The calendar on the wall says 1963. We also brought the entire tech crew along.



In the other foto, the aircraft looked small, but here is a picture of our 6 foot video man **Arthur Dahm**, standing under our aircraft's wing. Our unit mgr was **Jim Fox**, a lot gray-er at the end of the trip. Thanks to **Charlie Tesser** who assembled a memoranda book from pix fm all the participants, from whence these fotos came.

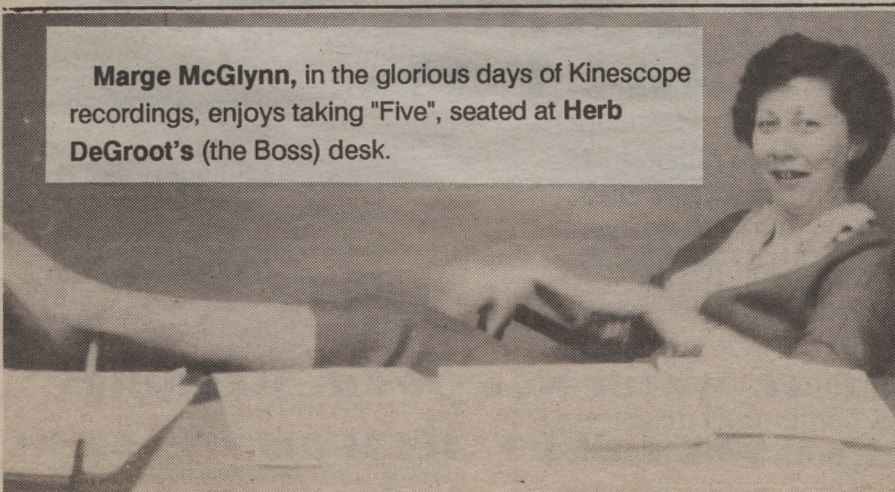


This was the control room we built for the video production side, with rack equipment at the rear. Left to right, we see **Bill Klages**, lighting director, myself, **Heino Ripp**, T.D., Director **Dwight Hemion**, and A.D. **Enid Roth**. To the rear is Tech Sup **John Rogers**. **Dave Hubby** had a big hand in building the gear. (Dave, W2SNM, Net control of the 40 meter net)



Into this aircraft, on the trip to Guantanamo with the Como Show, we had to load a Cadillac mobile unit, 20,000 lbs of eqpt, two mike booms, twenty people, and this mobile unit. Think it would fit? For a while it didn't and we had to saw off part of the roof top, let out air from the tires etc and managed to winch it in with inches of clearance. We did take off and did a show there.

Marge McGlynn, in the glorious days of Kinescope recordings, enjoys taking "Five", seated at **Herb DeGroot's** (the Boss) desk.



Allen Potter, Produc'r of The Doctors, at last years Florida retirees bash. I remember Allen from "Henry Aldrich" at 106th St. in the 50's

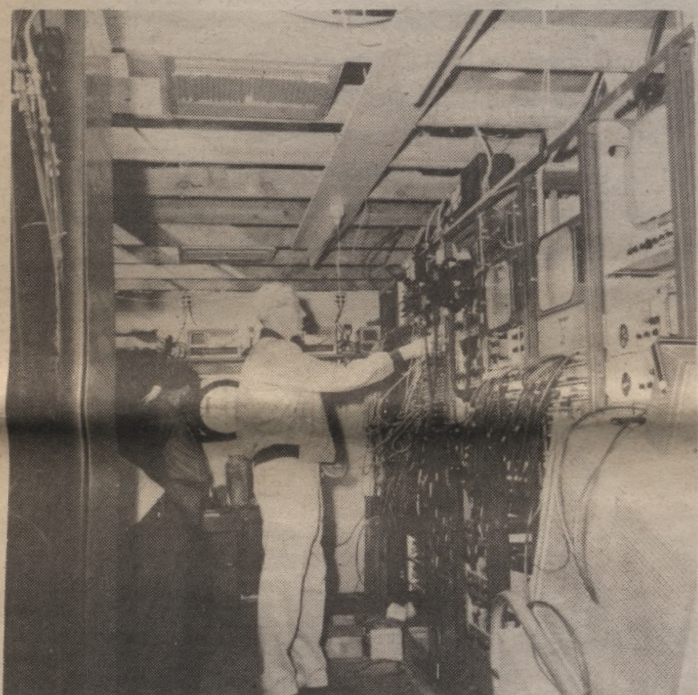
New Members



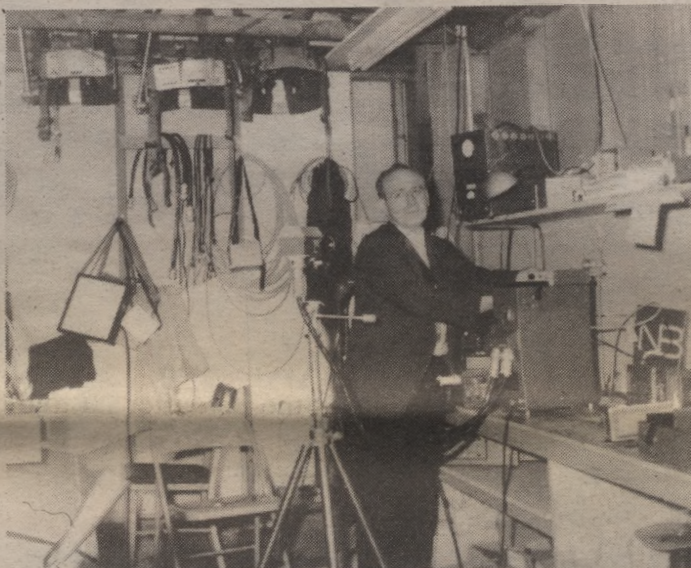
We know that conventions are long and often times boring, but what can you expect at three in the morning! Pictured here from left to right: **John Russo, Frank (PN poet laureate) O'Keefe Willie Howard and Bill Goetz.**



From the 1964 Republican Convention Control Room: standing is **T.D., O. Tamburri**, seated, left to right is **unidentified**, then **T.D., Stoddard Dentz**, and at the audio console is **Phil Falcone**.



From the same convention 1964, "**Tiny**" **Carson** in the TV Transmission, Master Control area.



This area serviced the roving "Creepy Peepy". My memory is still groping for the engineer's name, but I felt that was no reason to leave the picture out.

We appreciate Clay Ackerson's rummaging through his foto file for these "Memories" pictures.

NOTICE !

If You Get The Newsletter Before Mar. 05 - There is a Mini-Lunch That Day.

Then :
The Next Mini-Lunch
is June 4th as
indicated throughout
the Newsletter



This is the same Tony Nelle by the Jeep on the previous page, as he is today, not with Smyth, but with Nancy, his bride.

- Ron Adams
- Richard Aimone
- Allan Baeder
- William Bales
- Stan Bashen
- Sal Benza
- Nell Blatzheim
- Norm Blumenthal
- Susan Boyd
- Max Buck
- Robert Butler
- Lucille Casey
- Mario Ciarlo
- Fred Collins
- Jesse Cripe
- Richard Daniels
- Maurice Dick
- Garth Dietric
- Rosemary Dubois
- Dick Ebbersol,
- Hon. Member
- Harvey Eckstein
- Ted Everitt
- Catherine Fariss
- William Freeda
- Francis Freiler
- Robert Galvin
- William Hanrahan
- Larry Lockwood
- Jack Marshall
- Ross Martindale
- Robert Mausler
- Rosemary McPhillips
- Vincent Mitchell
- E. Roger Muir
- Ted Nathanson
- James Culley
- Jacob Patent
- Jim Reina
- Edward Scanlon
- Hon. Member
- Ray Scherer
- William Shortridge
- James Steigelbauer
- Grant Tinker
- Vince Vacca
- Eugene Waldstein
- Esther Weinstein
- Walter Werner
- Frank Woodruff
- Robert Wright
- Hon. Member

New Members

New NBC 40 Meter Net - Wed. Mornings
W2SNM - DAVE HUBBY 10:30am - 7242 Kc

A note from **FRANK FREILER** dated Dec 12. re: **LIFE AT BOUND BROOK** - where? Bound Brook, in New Jersey, which was the site of the NBC Voice of America transmitters to Europe and South America. Six 50 thousand watt transmitters. They had to be put on the air regardless, even bad weather. The 1st time I experienced a lightning strike on the antenna with sparks flying all over the final [transmitter tubes], I took off out the side door. When I turned around, I saw the old timer standing unharmed among the flying sparks, motioning to me to return. Upon my return, he pushed the On/Off button and everything returned to normal. You can guess my feelings ! Afterwards this was played on all new engineers after having the H--- scared out of them.

Despite all this danger from High voltage and lightning, no one was ever seriously hurt. Then one evening when everything was off, our janitor was waxing the floor, tripped over a cable, fell and broke his leg. He crawled to the phone and called **FRENCHY PARADIS**, one of the riggers who lived nearby. Frenchy told him not to move, and he would arrange for an ambulance. The rescue people took care of him and transported him to the local hospital. After 3 or 4 days I went to visit our janitor. He seemed all right, was in a wheel chair, and took me around to show me the place. I said "goodnight" to him and left for my room in New

Brunswick. When I arrived at work the next morning, I was met at the door by **JOE STENPLE**, another of our riggers. He told me that after I left the hospital, the patients in the room heard a peculiar noise from our janitor, who was gasping for air. He died before a doctor arrived.

I never forgot this, after all the dangers we went through with the high voltage, lightning etc.

A short time later, Boundbrook was closed and I was transferred to Radio City to a totally different line of work- soap operas, football games, Today Show, Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, news, etc. Retired in 1974 from the Doctors and moved to my present address in Colorado Springs - could never understand why people move to hot mosquito ridden Florida...

As ever, Squire.. (nee, Frank Freiler) W3PBL, WB0PAJ....[I don't think the lightning or high voltage could change Frank, for he has always been a genuine gentleman. Heino]

THE HEREAFTER

The preacher came to call the other day and he said, "at your age you should be thinking about the hereafter". I told him, oh, I do all the time. No matter where I am in the house, the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?"

FRANK VIERLING writes from Peacock Southwest (bet you didn't know we even had a PN SW!).

On Saturday Dec. 15th, we had our third annual mini-retiree luncheon in Tuscon, Arizona. Had lunch with **AARON TRAIGER**, **MARTY DENNIS** and his wife **Shirley**. Attendance was curtailed for a variety of reasons. The most serious absences was **EV BEAVERS**, who is recovering from two operations, prostate cancer and a brain tumor. I spoke to him buy phone. He seemed in exceptionally good spirits. Aaron was up from Green Valley that day for his weekly Ham Breakfast, his wife was not with him, and my wife was doing some last minute Christmas shopping with our daughter, who lives in Tusco. So Shirley was the Queen of the lunch. They send their best wishes to all back East.

From back East: In the bad news department, I received a call from **JOHN NORELL's** daughter. John's wife had passed away January 16th. after suffering a massive stroke. She had celebrated her 75th birthday on Sunday and was playing bridge Tuesday (Jan 8). John, you might know, had a mild stroke this past fall and is doing quite well.

Signs of our fading youth are becoming quite evident... See you all at the next Mini luncheon in March.

Happy New Year and regards, **Frank**

More Letters Page 18.

FLORIDA RETIREES LUNCHEON

As seen by **Gene Martin**

The Fla. Retirees gave another excellent retake of last years affair at Club Med, in Port St. Lucie, where 150 or so people attended. After partaking 2 hours of snacks and drinks on a sunny, comfortable outdoors their Pres, **WALT VETTER** sounded the alarm with a bull horn to gather everyone into the dining room.

During the meal, it was made known that this day was also **LEE CARLTON's** birthday and a great birthday cake appeared, and of course we all helped **LEE** and **JUNE** quickly devour it.

Just before dessert time, we were entertained by a guest speaker from a local station, who very quickly won our attention with some bright material covering almost every category. He got and deserved a standing ovation...

The luncheon ended on a happy note for many of the retirees and their guests.

cont'd 3rd column right

PN SPECIAL AIDE

Howard Atlas

Creates Computer Programs for P.N.

By Pete Peterson

PN data files are kept in two separate and distinct different files in my home IBM XT Hard drive. All pertinent data is kept with this redundancy system to facilitate and protect info for dues, the Newsletter, correspondence, and additional info for labelling and addressing the PN membership. One of these programs is DBase 3. The membership is served well by the efforts of this "special person", who has from our beginning, been the master at upgrading my DBase program to integrate cross referencing and indexing the data in convolutions not usually employed. Everytime I have called Howard, he has managed to upgrade the program without loss of any previous info



or system use. He has sat on the phone by the hour with me keystrtoking new programming instructions. We are indebted to his dedication to our group. He has also served us

well with advice on Health and other insurance programs. Thanks Howard, from all of Peacock North !

Florida Retirees .. cont'd

A drawing from your ticket number resulted in a good number of gifts. Everyone especially enjoyed that part.

It was a special day for all to see some familiar faces, some unfamiliar faces, talk to friends you haven't seen in years. *This always has been a special time for all of us.* **WALT** and **DORIS VETTER**,

HANK and **IRIS FOLKERTS**, **ED** and **ANN TAFTE**, and the members of the retiree committee made this another memorable occasion.

Congratulations, well done !

FROM ANN KRAMER:

Dear Pete,
I can't tell you with what great anticipation I sit down to read each issue of PN --and I don't put it down until I've reached the last page.

I cry a little ("Silent Mikes"). Reading about Elliot Frankel and Davey Teitlebaum was especially difficult for me. We shared a long history (along with Dan Grabel) -- all the way back to the Garroway TODAY program, through Huntley-Brinkley, many Reuven Frank Specials, Huntley reporting, Magee Reporting, and all the political conventions from 1956 on.

P. 18.

But I also laugh a lot --sharing the many good times with all of you. I wish I had gotten to know more of you engineering fellas personally -- but the names *are* familiar from many years of having to call tech ops for credit crawl info.

I am happily esconced here in New Mexico -- it is truly the Land of Enchantment. I keep busy as a docent (tour guide) at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center; have toured most of the Indian ruins here, attend archeology lectures and volunteer occasionally at Isletta Pueblo where a friend of mine is director of the Elderly program -- get to keep score at horseshoe-pitching contests and the like.

I am also on the board of the Senior

group at church. Also started taking golf lessons. Played (badly) in a charity tournament recently.

And finally, have just returned from **my dream vacation --- a 3 week safari to Kenya and Tanzania !**

One of these days I will try to locate Tony Rokosz in Rio Rancho to ask if I can join you NBC hams for one of your daily schmooze sessions on the radio.

"Peace"

Ann Kramer

(Ed note: "Peace", you may recall was Dave Garroway's closing words and gesture, as he put his right palm up towards the camera, Indian style).



← **ANN KRAMER** is one of those NBCers who used to show up at dawn at the RCA Exhibition Hall on 49th St.(now replaced by a bank), along with J.Fred Muggs, Dave Garroway, your newsletter editor, the technical crew and other Today Show people, and Major. Upon retirement she took Horace Greeley's advice and went West to New Mexico.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

(See page 5. for Trivia Questions)

(Dick Dudley, who prepared these questions, obviously knows them because he worked all the shows in question.)

1. Amos'n Andy
2. Dee Englebach
3. Fred Coe
4. Efrem Zimbalist
5. H. Leopold Spitalny
6. Eleanor Roosevelt
7. Lowell Thomas
8. Ezio Pinza
9. Jimmy Durante, Ed Wynn, Danny Thomas, and Jack Carson..



P.N. thanks **Dick Dudley** for his many contributions to the newsletter, and hope it continues. Many of us have wanted to retire to a farm in the country: Well Dick did !



MINI LUNCH AT PICCO

Really, really looking ahead. Here's one for your June 1991 datebook. For a variety of reasons, we will have our next **Mini Lunch** at the popular Picco Lissimo Restaurant on Route 9, Ft. Lee, N.J., a mile south of the Geo Washington Bridge, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH AT 12:30 pm.** Can't make it ? We'll give you a second chance, Tuesday, August 6th, same place, same time.

Be There !

THE PAPER WAR

Dan Grabel

I was going through my 1990 medical file, bills from doctors, Estimates and Benefits (EOB) from Medicare, when I realized I was holding half a pound of paper in my hand, and all from one visit to the ophthamologist.

As a result of the visit I had a forty minute out-patient operation at a hospital and that little bit of surgery resulted in 44 messages back and forth between the medical community and me. Forty four !

That made me think of the little notice you often see on government forms referring to the "paper work reduction act". Reduction ? Hah ! I'd call it **PROduction !**

Here's the breakdown:

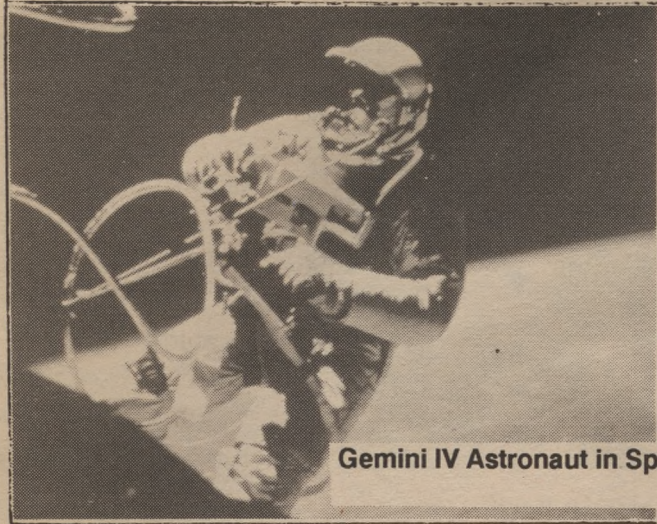
Letters originated by patient:	8
Letters from Medicare:	2
Postcard from Medicare:	1
EOB's from Travelers Insurance:	6
Letter from Met Life:	1
Statements (EOB's) Medicare:	12
Bills ex hospital:	6
Bills from (5) doctors:	8

TOTAL FORTY FOUR

And now they're all in the waste basket and we're getting set for 1991.

Space Memories

Pge 19.



Gemini IV Astronaut in Space Walk

A delightful Memory Lane letter from **BOB ASMAN** a Special Events Senior Producer in Washington.

Dear Pete (and Gene and Dan, Jack and Rippy):

What a neat publication PEACOCK NORTH has become !!! Congratulations to you all for a wonderfully rich and entertaining newspaper. (Somehow, I can't imagine ABC or CBS having anything like it. We NBC'ers always tended to be more "family", God bless us all !!)

Reading the re-print of the HOUSTON POST article about the memorable splash-down party after Gemini 4, brought back a flood of memories of our coverage of the Space program.

I was with **JIM KITCHELL**, Exec Produc'r in '62 doing space coverage from Mercury 9 through all the Gemini and Apollo flights that got us to the moon. It was a wonderful, upbeat story to cover --- and living down the Cape for a couple of weeks every month or so with director **BOB PRIAULX**'s wonderful cooking and **DON PIKE**'S excellent trumpet playing was not half bad !!

A couple of stories from that era, if I may:

In the early days, when the space program shifted from the Air Force to NASA, there was still a lot of secrecy. The "media" wasn't trusted. They were terribly afraid that we would write and broadcast about their failures (of which there WERE a few). So when we were covering the early launches from Cocoa Beach (they wouldn't even allow us on the Cape--no press sites then) we would never know when a launch was going to take place. We finally figured out when to get our film cameras rolling. When we would see that "venting" had stopped, we knew they were building up pressure for a launch and we would begin rolling.

When, little by little, they started to "trust" the press, they let us on the Cape ..even established press sites only a couple of miles from the launch pad. But then they established a very firm rule. There was an embargo on when we could release pictures of a launch. We could only release our film for air when they had "fire in the tail" (translation: when the rocket has successfully cleared the tower and was on its way)

Then came the launch morning when Jim Kitchell showed up at the press site with a MOBILE UNIT !! (Actually a converted bread truck from our Jacksonville affiliate) - "Wait a minute !" cried the NASA public affairs officer, "no live pictures allowed ... we've got to have fire in the tail ! Get those electronic cameras out of here!" Well, Jim assured him that NBC had no intention of going "live". He explained that we were starting to work with this new thing called videotape. What he didn't tell the smart-ass P.A.O. was that at the time we only had videotape in Burbank. Jim had ordered an ATT vanda to Burbank. There they recorded the launch on one machine, draped the tape across the room to a playback machine. No we didn't cover the launch "live", but pretty damn close. We had built a 10 second delay and WE SCOOPED CBS and ABC, much to the delight of Mr. Kintner [then NBC president]. What fun it was !

There were a lot of "firsts". It seems that every flight we advanced our coverage a bit more. I remember the first time we choppered one of the big old color cameras and operator (Howie Atlas?) to the top of a neighboring

launch tower to get a "new angle" of a launch. This disturbed a swarm of flying bees and our poor guys barely got off without being bitten to death.

Or the time we pioneered COLOR coverage of a Gemini launch. As you recall, NBC was far ahead of the competition in color. So when Kitchell convinced management that we should spend some extra bucks to be the first to cover a launch in color, we showed no mercy in flaunting that fact to our competition. **ED FAUGHT**, who was Jim's Unit Manager, had the local bartenders develop a "Peacock Cocktail" (it took a lot of research to develop a carefully layered liquor with as many colors as possible!) ... then, when any ABC or CBS person went to their favorite Cape watering hole, they would be served, gratis, an NBC " Peacock Cocktail ".

And if that weren't enough to remind them of NBC's color leadership, Ed went to the local Cape bakery and commissioned a whole bunch of small cakes with the white icing emblazoned with the good old NBC Peacock. Imagine how Bob Wussler or Walter Cronkite or Jules Bergman (who was ABC's main space reporter) must have choked, when at the end of a good meal at Bernard's Surf or that wonderful restaurant on the causeway, they would be served (without asking for dessert) one of Ed's Peacock cakes!

So many memories: **DON PIKE**, who was NBC's main EIC for Cape coverage, not only brought his wife, he always brought his trumpet. Don used to sit in with some of the great live bands that played the Cape night spots. Great fun!

And yes, **BOB PRIAULX**, who directed a good many of our Cape launches, and who had attended one of the renowned French cooking schools after WWII, actually used to make dinners for us. (In those glory days, NBC used to put us up in small apartments with kitchens!) I remember one time we thought we'd stump him. So we went to one of the local supermarkets and bought the biggest, fattest frozen turkey we could find. It was just a gag. But Bob called our bluff. The next night the whole crew got invitations to a "July Thanksgiving dinner". And by God, the next night, with the 80+ temperature saved only by the cooling breezes off the Atlantic, we sat down to a complete Thanksgiving dinner (Walnut and oyster stuffing in the big bird, as I recall.

And drag racing down the skid strip at night.

Those really were the fun days, I'm sure some of your readers guys and gal's who were a part of it, have lots more memories of those wonderful space coverage days. I'd love to read them.

Sincerely, **Bob Asman** -- STILL a Special Events Senior Producer in Wash.

Hey Rippy,

-- And that was only at the Cape! Remember all the fun we had in 8H with the Baird Puppets, and Peter Hackes climbing in and out of the full scale mock-ups of the Apollo's and LEM's! [Sure do Bob, also, I think we both flew the lunar module to the touchdown, not Armstrong! And to Don Pike, Minni Wixum , Was Poss Konatches ? [Heino]



At left, **Bil Baird** demonstrates a "puppet astronaut" visual aid to **Bob Asman** in 8H, surrounded by full scale Gemini Space Craft mockups.

KEN'S KORNER

By Ken Arber



Being the audio engineer on the Milton Berle show on

Tuesday nights,

sponsored by Texaco, was an education in the fine art of Sho-Biz and the comedy world. **HAROLD FLOOD** was the long time Audio engineer until I started as his vacation relief, and Harold transferred to NBC west coast.

In the old days, New Technical Directors, Audio engineers, and Lighting Directors were always assigned a day to observe the operation of the show. Harold instructed me of all the problems to be aware of, or as **DORSON ULLMAN** [long time class audio engr] once called them, "Death trap #1, Death Trap #2 etc.

The T.D. was **BOB [Moose] DANIELS**, who held forth on the 7th floor control room at the back of studio 6B, much removed from the audio booth on the 6th floor stage. The audio booth was left over from 6B radio days. All communication between the TD, video, L.D., audio etc. was done by pl or phone & speakers. The P.A. engineer was Pete Peterson, today's VP/Secretary of Peacock North. Pete's console consisted of 6 faders and a master gain. Today's consoles which my son Glenn operates on the David Letterman Show, consists of 64 available faders. How things have changed! The rest of the Berle audio crew - two boom operators and boom pushers and Frank Weill.

An advantage of the audio booth being on the stage, made it possible to see everything taking place [unless the "cyc" was pulled closed.]

My first show with "Uncle Miltie" was on Thanksgiving day. Harold Flood had cautioned me that Berle's standard practice was to come into the audio booth and try out his monologue on the audio engineer. Hal told me to try not to laugh at his material, in effect try to "break his back" while he is trying to be funny.

The test came, Milt asked Pete and Frank to leave us alone. My opportunity to keep from laughing at him disappeared when I saw Milton. He was dressed like a 7 foot turkey, stooping to get through the control room door. I don't remember any of the jokes, for I couldn't stop laughing.

From time to time Berle would come to my control room window and mouth: There's no F---ing P.A., to which I would push the "Plus Button" to Pete's console, Pete would raise the level to a slight



Martha Raye and Milton Berle

ringing and Milt would gesture "it was OK" to me. I then would signal Pete, and he would lower the level. I don't know if Milt ever got wise to this, but being sharp, he probably did.

While rehearsing in 6B, Berle usually wore a gray sweat shirt with a police whistle around his neck. When something displeased him, or went wrong, he would blow the whistle and **Allen Roth**, his conductor, would **immediately stop** the orchestra. [As a game, each of the crew picked a number to guess the number of times Berle would stop the dress rehearsal. Nearest number won]. I admired Milt for his knowledge in making corrections of many a celebrity. A typical example: The "Blackburn Twins" and a female singer-dancer making their entrance down a wide flight of stairs upstage. The way she walked down the stairs was not very exciting, so Milton blew his whistle then proceeded to demonstrate just how she **should** do it, by wiggling his derriere as he came down the stairs. Much better!

Milton's biggest thrill in life was to get onstage to show "how it should be done".

[Was it **Eddy Band** who once stole his whistle and blew it on him ??]

Once a juggler was performing a balancing act, consisting of balancing a large 4 legged table together with 2 chairs on top of the table. He spoke little English, but was doing a fine act. Milton stepped up to him, didn't blow the whistle, but gently tapped him on the shoulder and yelled "Why the Hell are you facing the wrong way? Face the audience !

The last of the self education lessons was when the commercial reader Syd Stone, who did the popular pitchman spiel that started with "I tell you what I'm gonna do" was rehearsing his part and Milton was watching and listening. When Syd finished, Milt came over to him and offered a suggestion. Couldn't believe my ears when I heard Syd's response, which was "didn't tell you how to do your job and I would appreciate you not telling me how to do mine". Strangely enough, Milton did not respond, but turned and walked away. I knew what Milt's reaction meant. In a couple of weeks, Syd Stone's act was dropped from the show. . .

Inclosing, Milton was very generous with the entire crew, giving each a \$50. gift certificate to a very classy haberdasher on B'way. Yes, it was a very pleasant experience and an education working on the Milton Berle Texaco Show. !

KEN ARBER

Peacock North Newsletter
is printed at

REDMOND *press*

DENVILLE, N.J.

627-1979

495 Route 53, Denville, N.J. 07834
201:627-1979, Ask for: José Cintron

MINI LUNCH AT PICCO

we will have our next **Mini Lunch** at the popular Picco Lissimo Restaurant on Route 9, Ft. Lee, N.J., a mile south of the Geo Wash. Bridge, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH AT 12:30 pm.**

PIX TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Shirley Dinsdale, a ventriloquist.
2. Her partner's name was **Judy Splinters** (was also the name of their show, done out of 106th Street Studios).
3. The special distinction was: She won the first "Emmy" ever awarded as "Most Outstanding Television Personality"

Part II, **Bob Smith** and **Howdy Doody** (not the original puppet though)

1. Date of 1st show was **Dec.27,1947.**
2. Emanated from **Studio 8G** (with temporary field gear for control rm)
3. Producer was **Roger Muir**
4. Director was **Bob Rippen**
5. T.D. was **Heino Ripp**

TID BITS

Having just returned from Key West, Florida, where we did a "live -on-tape " Comedy Show for Fox tv [ch 5 in N.Y.], my ears perked up as I heard John Gambling on WOR talking to a Rabbi Robbie Harris, who does stand up comedy. But more of that in a moment.

In the Key west show, **KIMBER RICKABAUGH** was Exec producer. Kimber was a unit manager in NBC NY; doing many instant news specials as well as some Saturday Night Liv-ies. She dragged **AL CAMOIN**, down from the Florida Gulf coast as well as **DENNIS RUDGE** the Lighting Designer from The Klages Group in LA, who **RED McKINNON** and I had worked with doing the KOREAN Summer Olympics. What a pleasant surprise.

Now back to the Rabbi. Gambling noted that it was unusual for a Rabbi to appear as a comic. In his "act", one of the things Rabbi Harris talks about, was life in a Kibutz in Israel. " The life was hard, the times were hard and Rabbinical training was hard. Often I would go to the neighboring town of Nazareth to shop. One of the many products made there was goat cheese plus other milk products. As a matter of fact, this company's products were known the world over :

" Cheeses of Nazareth "...

Ba rump bump... as Steve Allen used to say...

The Rabbi story reminded me of Howie Morris. In the early 1950's, Howie appeared as a new cast member to the already great group on the "Show of Shows" [which I T.D'd], (Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca, Carl Reiner etc). His first appearance was a U-Boat Commander. As he walked in, he whacked his whip against his boot and said, " I am zee feeld marshal of zees sup-mareen." -or words to that effect. From there he became one of the Greats of early tv.

Howie, being an ordinary person, like us, related this incident in his life:

His Dad loved New York and asked Howie, that when he dies, he would like his ashes scattered over the Hudson River.

A few years later his dad passed away. After the funeral ceremonies, Howie went to collect the ashes. The man in charge told him that he had to buy an "Urn", as it is the tradition to carry away the ashes to their final resting place. He was paraded past many urns, and when he inquired about the cost, he was told that they ranged from \$2,000 up. After some embarrassing dickering, the urn salesman agreed that it would be O K for Howie to bring his own.

Nervously Howie hurried home through the windy and rainy streets, returned in his new white London Fog coat and presented his "urn" for the ashes; an A & P coffee can. Quite aghast, he reminded Howie of the solemnity of the occasion, then returned shortly giving Howie his "urn" of ashes.

Howie immediately got into his car, drove to the Geo. Washington Bridge, pulled to the side, walked to the rail with his "urn". As he was about to scatter its content, a cop's car stopped and asked just what was he doing ! He tried to explain, but instead walked to his car, through the wind and rain, and left as he had been ordered. What to do ? So he drove to N.J., came back onto the bridge, went off to the West Side Highway, and pulled off at the first emergency pull-off. Again he took the urn, walked to the water, and started to spread the ashes. The wind blew the ashes all over his white coat, onto the ground, the car, into puddles; everywhere, but none onto the River. He was a mess, but he ran around desperately trying to salvage a tiny bit of his dad's remains. - - - Now, dolly the camera back across the police car that had been watching, and we see this wind tossed man, smudged with soot, running around like a spastic in the rain, flailing his coffee can as if catching flies, screaming, "Poppa, Poppa, I'm sorry, I'm sorry -please forgive me ---

It takes a great man, with a good sense of humor that can laugh at himself... my friend, **HOWIE MORRIS**

"FOX" # 3 Pge 21.

Oh, Back to Berlin. That's where I met announcer **DICK DUDLEY**, who was with Armed Forces Radio in London and came over to sell contraband candy bars to Germans and Russians. I gave him \$5 per and later sold them for \$25 per! Everybody dealt in contraband, Watches went for \$900. unbelievable. One day Mickey Rooney, Bobby Breen and I were at the Brandenburg Gate, in a half-ton truck filled with "goodies," when we saw the Military Police coming toward us, every one fled. Me too..

With the help of **BOB ADAMS**, **ARCH ROBB**, **STEVE WHITE** and **KEN MCGREGOR**, I joined the announcing staff at NBC. **PAT KELLY** was furious because I mispronounced the names of composers. My first Radio Show was "Honeymoon in New York," with **ED HERLIHY** as M.C.

GOING SOUTH

NBC News' news tape syndication service, which began life about 25 years ago as News Program Service, later change to "A" News (for Affiliate News) and still later to other designations when it was transmitted by satellite, went out of business on January first. The operation, sans personnel in New York, Washington, Chicago and Burbank, moved to North Carolina where it will be distributed free to affiliates. Previously, the affils were billed.

Don Meaney was the original manager of the operation, succeeded by **Buck Prince**, **Dave Teitelbaum**, **Les Crystal**, **Art Kent**, **Jo Moring** and a few others. The longtime editors were **Jim Aldrich** and **Dan Grabel** before the operation blossomed out to a staff of about 20 in New York.

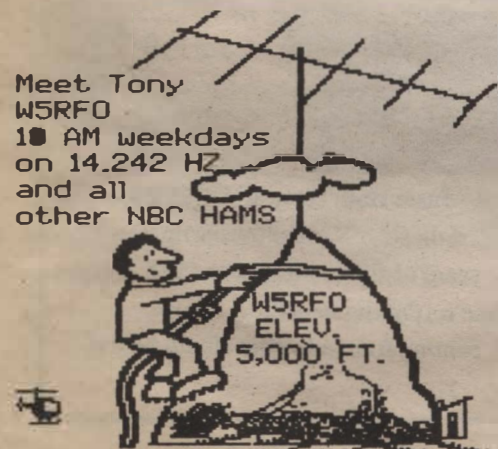
Current producer/writers include **Dick Watt**, **Ed Bowers**, **Marv Lorber**, **Ginger Marin**, et al. They have now been assigned to a writers pool.

ANOTHER POEM

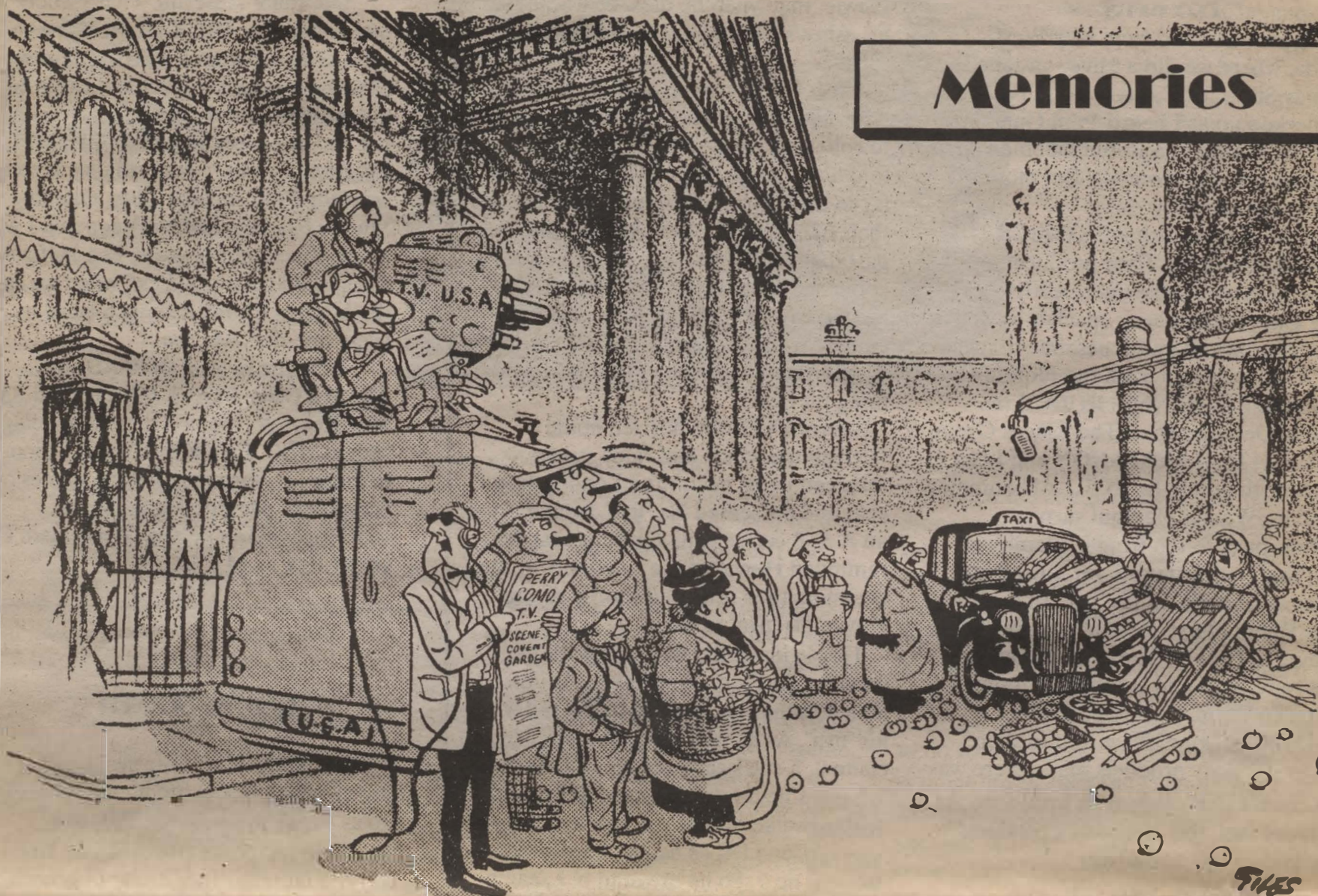
Remember old folks are worth a fortune, silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs. I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly I have become quite a frivolous old gal. I am seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake up, *Will Power* helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see *John*. Then *Charlie horse* comes along and when he is here he takes a lot of time and attention. When he leaves, *Arthur Itis* shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with *Ben Gay*. What a life !

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, Oh, I do all the time. No matter where I am in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement - I ask myself . . . " Now what am I here after ?"



Memories



"Beg pardon, Miss Fonteyn—this bit is not in Mr. Como's script."

In 1960, Perry Como taped a show in London. We did a lot of scenes around the town, amongst them Parliament Square, a sequence at the "Bull and Bush" pub, a castle which now charges admission to help defray the taxes, etc. One of the scenes was outside the Opera House at Covent Garden, with Perry and Margot Fonteyn. Props were added to the many vendors pushcarts to spruce up the area, and during the taping -well you see exactly what happened as seen by a Daily Express cartoonist, not quite as planned in the script. The cabbie obviously more intent on watching the "stars" than where he was driving. [We did manage to finish before the sun went down, tho] (Heino)



Above: NEAL SMITH, audio engineer, who mixed all of the Como Shows "live" for years. Neal is shown here on a ferry boat going from one part of Quantanamo Bay to the stage location.. Rear center is Director Dwight Hemion, who has more Emmy Awards than anyone in the world. At right are U S Marines, having as good a time as we were ! See Rotogravure for more Como fotos.

Perry Como, like Bob Hope also entertained servicemen. One of the shows took many of us to Quantanamo, Cuba, where the regular Como show was "live on tape" at the Naval Base, within shooting distance from Castro'd wire fence "wall".



PERRY COMO, our star of the Kraft Music Hall, congratulating a winning Marine, after Como's cast-ladies danced on stage with enthusiastic, service guys... Perry also took his show for 2 years of shows all over the U.S. Maybe the first regularly scheduled prime time'r, "On the Road".

Thanks to Charlie Tesser, the pix coming from a terrific album he put together for everyone.

Silent Microphones

We know that these are not the only losses our PN family has suffered. Our feelings go out to all who have had a part of them taken out of their life. We hope their memories keep those love ones as close as they always were. We would be deeply grateful to all who send us information for Silent Mikes as word does not always get to PN..

MIKE ROSAR...

A former TD, passed away November 14th (cancer). Mike was a warm, competent, scholarly, intellectual, and well-liked engineer who began his NBC career in the early 50s. Mike retired about seven years ago and shared his time at homes in Florida and Georgia..

TOM FUREY..

He was a veteran of 26 years service at NBC NEWS, retiring within the past year because of poor health. After a long battle with cancer, Tom succumbed on Dec. 27, 1990, at the age of 66. Tom's most recent assignment, for well over a decade, was as News Producer for the Today show, working the overnight, what he would have call "the lobster trick." During his 16 years at the New York World Telegram from 1948 to 1964, most folks never saw him at the shop. Before his Today show days he worked for WNBC news on the old Sixth Hour News and other shows. Tom is survived by his widow, NBC director Marilyn Jacobs, herself a member of the 25 Year Club, four daughters by a previous marriage and several grandchildren..

WILSON D. HALL, an NBC News radio and television foreign correspondent for 26 years, from 1952 to 1978, died of pulmonary disease in Jackson, Tenn. on January 10th, at the age of 68. At the time of his death, Wil was acting chairman of the Dept of Journalism of the University of Tennessee, Martin, where he had been on the staff since 1984. Prior to that, Hall taught at the University of Bridgeport.

After leaving NBC News in 1968, he was an anchorman at the CBS affiliate in Albany.

Your editor recalls speaking to Wil almost every morning back in the mid-50's, When he, or his wife Lee, came up on a radio circuit from Amman, Jordan or Cairo, with reports for radio or the Today Show, then originating with Garroway in the RCA Exhibition Hall. Forty five years later, Amman is again a hot assignment. They were probably the only husband-wife team of correspondents broadcasting from overseas at that time, and such an arrangement is pretty rare, even today. (Lee, long since

remarried, is now with the Voice of America on the West coast. (from Ray Scherer).

Wilson also served elsewhere in the Middle East, Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Washington and New York.

He is survived by his former wife, Laurie King Hall of Silver Springs, Md., and two children, Kevin, 18 and Kimberley, 21.

JOHN CZISMADIA : While listening in on the NBC Ham Net, John Lough spoke from Cape Cod and mentioned the passing around early Feb. and the funeral that was held in N.J. for **JOHN CZISMADIA** (Tech Ops). Have no other details at this time... I remember John in the 50's when he was a cameraman, much later in video tape, and a *nice man*, whose name no one could spell.

IVAN KARSON (Video Tape plus) we have very little info to report, except it was from a heart attack in Florida. Ivan was in video tape when I retired, but I remember in the Perry Como days, he used to roam all over the stage with a monitor and foldback speaker to Perry could see what was on as well hear the orch or himself. Como would make sure that his pal Ivan had his own spot on the floor, between all the cameras, booms lights etc. or he wouldn't continue. I hear that his sister, who was quite a vocalist TV performer, and after attending his funeral, went to the NBC Fla. Retirees luncheon this year. We shall miss him .

ANDY SWITZER (Tech Ops): Again, we have a lack of info We heard this from Florida, but no details. Andy's career was quite varied in tech ops. He spent time in the "field", and many times have spoken to him on the pl in TVC.

Ken Arber sends this
"Remembering Danny Thomas"

It is with sadness that we, Danny Thomas' crew who did The All Star Review in the 50s at the Center Theater, learned of his death. The crew consisted of Grey Lockwood, Jack Irving Rosemary Guigley, Leon Dobbin, Jack Fitzpatrick, Myself, Pete Peterson, Lou Halpern, Mike Egan and Gordon Rigsby.

His love for children was evidenced after watching a child actor from the wings, asked her why she didn't wear a sweater, for it was quite cold onstage. He went to great effort to notify the costumer and her mother. His great concern really touched me.

We shall all miss Danny Thomas, but I shall always think of him walking off the stage of World Entertainment to the strains of "Oh Danny Boy"!

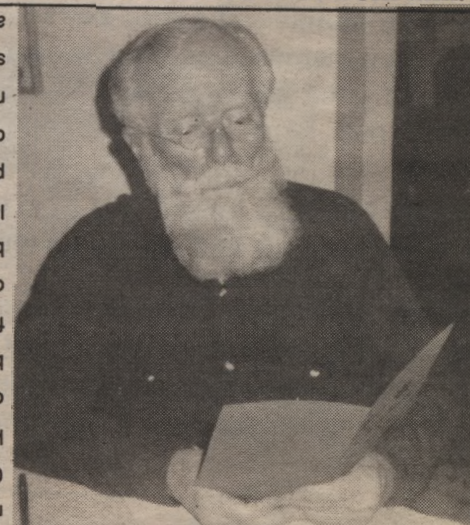
MY FATHERS

Columnist Ann Landers pulled this old chestnut out for Father's Day, for which we are indebted. Let's figure that more than half of PN's membership qualifies in the father's category, and the sentiments expressed are good year round.

When I was --

- 4 years old:** My daddy can do anything.
- 5 years old:** My daddy knows a whole lot.
- 6 years old:** My dad is smarter than your dad.
- 8 years old:** My dad doesn't know exactly everything.
- 10 yrs old:** In the olden days when my dad grew up, things were different.
- 12 yrs old:** Oh well, naturally Father doesn't know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood.
- 14 yrs old:** Don't pay any attention to my father. He is so old fashioned!
- 21 yrs old:** Him? My Lord, he's hopelessly out-of-date.
- 25 yrs old:** Dad knows a little bit about it, but then he should because he has been around so long.
- 30 yrs old:** Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he's had a lot of experience.
- 35 yrs old:** I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.
- 40 yrs old:** I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise and had a world of experience.
- 50 yrs old:** I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could've learned a lot from him.

Stu plays Santa each Christmas at the Shamrock Shore Club for the kids. This one should be in color, for Stu's dressed in bright RED long Johns, prior to donning the rest of Santa's suit. (seen on another page)



Who is this ex-Unit Manager ?

Stu MacGregory !

Pete Peterson's Message

VISIT TO FLORIDA AND AN NBC MEMORY LANE BRUNCH

Snow Birds from the North gathered with Sun Birds from Florida on Sunday Jan. 20th at THE EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL in Deerfield Beach, Fl. for an "NBC MEMORY LANE" brunch. It all started at the DEC. MINI LUNCH in FT. LEE ,NJ. When Peg PETERSON and HELEN DIPRIMA were saying good-bye and decided to get together for lunch with a few friends when they got to Florida. A phone call to Florida's ED TAFTE, LEE CARLTON and MARGE SHIELDS to contact additional friends in the Palm County area ensued. Pete made some arrangements for a fixed price brunch at the beautiful EMBASSY'S SWAN COURT dining room and we were off to one of the most enjoyable afternoons on the recent visit to Florida. Fifty five happy faces were at what was a spontaneous NBC MEMORY LANE BRUNCH having fun discussing old stories and new news. The food was delicious. Both PN and NBCFR'S were well represented. Later a group came over to the PETERSON'S motel to watch the Giants take the Championship form the Forty Niners. Furthest arrivals were HERB and RUTH GREELEY, who drove nearly 200 miles from MELBOURNE FL. to be part of the crowd. That's the bonding spirit of ex-NBCers who want to "Be There". Later we were houseguests of the GREELEYS elegant "Palazzio" on a visit to Melbourne and Cocoa Beach Fl. We dined with them and WALT and SOPHIE WERNER, all looking great, and wish to be remembered to friends. Sophie triumphs in taking golf seriously. Walt is heavily involved with the "NAVY LEAGUE" program. Elsewhere, the IORIO'S, GARY and DOROTHY are a great culinary team... had us up for dinner at their lively LAKE WORTH home on several occasions . Gary made his famous homemade "Speciale" Italian meatballs and sausages and fancy veggies and trimmings, with delicioso desserts. The next time was a candlelight "Filet-Mignon Supreme" dinner, par excellence. They're like newlyweds having a lot of fun outdoing each other in making delicious delights. Remember Gary's private commissary in studio 3A?). They both play golf everyday. The LEE CARLTONS were not to be outdone, hospitality food and champagne flowed easily at their lovely condo in the Boca area. Their son MARK is a Disc Jockey at WJOY-FM the biggie in that market. Many others were seen to be enjoying their Florida lifestyles. See picture for smiles. On returning to the Northland, after six weeks in the south, with stops at Hilton Head, SC., We were greeted by frigid temps, flurries and a mountain of mail. The good news is that our membership has once again increased and is now over 450. Hope to see everyone at LA MAGANETTE SUNDAY APRIL 28TH. after we thaw out. Pete

Lastly but not leastly, We want to thank HANK & IRIS FOLKERTS for steering us to your home via 2 meters for a terrific lunch and a pleasant tour of Club Med.

Regretfully, a late Silent Keys announcement:

KEN ALVORD: Was NBC Local news reporter, retired recently and went to a local Conn. Co. to make videos for clients via video tape, to train themselves in making a better presentation of themselves as a job applicant.

Addition to staff: Frank Vierling has accepted the position as Sunshine/ Silents Correspondent....Frank Vierling, 494 Prospect Ave. Oradell, N.J. 07649

Please keep us informed as to illnesses or silent microphone information, for it difficult for us to gather the information . Thank You



Embassy Suites Hotel, rear right,
where Memory Lane Brunch was enjoyed.



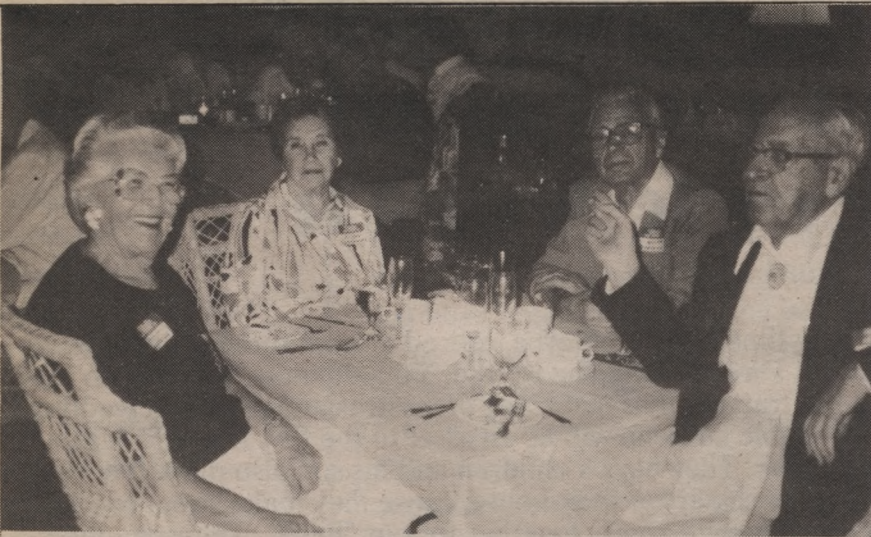
Peg and Pete Peterson



Herb Greeley, Guess who, and Walter Werner



Peg Peterson, Herb and Ruth Greeley, and Pete



Mil Stoltzenberger, Mrs & Walt Bickmeyer, & Stolzie



Nick Bruno ---- Emma



Dorothy and Gary Iorio and the meatballs



Helen DiPrima, Marge Shields, Ray DiPrima & Herb Greeley



Ed Taffe, Dorothy Iorio & Peg Peterson



Ruth Greeley, June Carlton, D.J., Mark Carlton



4 gorgeous ladies..(I lost the I.D's, Sorry, H.)



Ann Taffe, Peg, and Lee Carlton

"FOX" # 4:

Now, the first television Tonight Show, **PAT WEAVER** had hired comedian Don Hornsby to host. I was standby anncr. Hornsby contracted polio and died the day before the premiere. I suggested **TEX McCRARY** and **JINX FALKENBURG** as replacements, and you can put that in your trivia book and win a few bets..

The show went through a series of comics before **JERRY LESTER** arrived. Mean-while I started doing "warm-up" jokes for the studio audience. Lester turned out to be a huge success third in ratings for the entire network, and no one, including **JOHNNY CARSON** and **STEVE ALLEN**, ever came close to that... Up to that time I was getting no fee for the show. But when Lester asked my show fee, I said it was \$25 a night. He said, "okay, we'll double it to \$50!" (I told you I was bad). Warm-ups became my most profitable job. I warmed up all of NBC's game shows, as well as all of CBS'. Twenty six a week at \$50 per.

DON PARDO did the **AL JOLSON** radio show but I warmed it up, with gems like "Ladies and gentleman I would like to tell you the wife of one of our musicians gave birth to a six pound baby boy (APPLAUSE). Would the father please stand up." And, of course, the whole orchestra would stand.. Dumb, but it got laughs.....

"FOX" # 5.

Among the writers of Broadway Open House were Danny and Doc (Neil) Simon. They wanted a big-bosomed girl for a running gag. I was doing Sammy Kaye's Show, Do You Want To Lead a Band, **Jenny Lewis** was on it too, so I brought her over and she became "**Dagmar**." Wearing low-cut gowns, she sat in front of **Milton DeLugg's** orchestra with a sign around her neck, "Girl Singer." She never sang or talked, the audience went wild, and we got 2-million letters asking "who is that girl?" Eventually, she got a speaking part..

Finally, don't tell Cassey Cassem., but I had the first syndicated record show, in face, 3 shows on 900 stations: The Stars Review the Hits, The Album Show, and Favorites of the Famous. They ran for ten years, and I had the first network record show, Musical Merry Go Round, and it garnered 22 percent of the audience locally. (Editor's note: Remember the Silver Fox? Certainly, we all do, and Wayne still has a full head of silver hair)

Frank DiRienzo New President of Peacock North

Frank Di Rienzo, long time NBC employee, retired at least three years now. Frank was a Technical Director when he retired. You all know Frank as an easy going fellow, plays the trumpet, has had many orchestras and played at weddings etc. He's a very personable guy who will be an asset to the PN. His wife Marie also used to work at NBC. They have 4 children, and his son also plays the trumpet - no ear plugs necessary at their house, cause they make sweet soothing music ! Maybe we can get some music together for our "Fests". Their daughter Arianne made Frank and Marie grandparents in July (4th). They reside in Summit, N.J. You'll hear and see much more of him in the coming months. You might even have been interviewed by Frank on video tape at the Oktoberfest.

P.N. wants to thank Gene Martin for carrying the Presidential torch for the past few years. He will still be involved with me in getting the Newsletter out. Thanks also should go to Gene's Jenny (Janice) for her help on the paper. We now have compatible computers, and you should see less typos, since she types blindfolded a heck of a lot faster than I do, even with my bifocals on - she starts with no typos. And the computer programs now have a dictionary. (Our computers dont think yet, but they sure make us think).

We hope Frank enjoys his stint as Pres., and You all will get to know him soon..... Heino



"Christina ! See if the doggies have stolen Page 23, Please "

Out of this mess usually comes our Newsletter. Heino

CRAZIEST LANGUAGE

Rummaging through a trunk with of newspapers, a friend of the editor's came across this gem of a poem that appeared in an ancient Dear Abby column, and probably elsewhere. We got a kick out of this creative attempt to improve the King's English, and you will too...

We'll begin with a box and the plural is boxes;
But the plural of ox should be oxen not oxes.
Then one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse of a nest full of mice,
yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose.
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose,
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim.
So English I fancy you will agree,
Is the *craziest language* you ever did see.....

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Some Thoughts by Pres. Gene Martin

Now that we are well into the New Year, (They seem to arrive so soon lately,) we of Peacock North look back and hope that what has been accomplished in the last couple of years, will be a yardstick for what is in store for us in the future.

Our Membership is expanding monthly, the Newsletter has become a fine and welcomed work of art, and our Mini-luncheons, and our semi-annual extravaganzas have become so much a part of our lives, it's like being with family. We also have developed a smooth working arrangement with all the people involved in these areas.. it hasn't been easy, we have had to confront and solve many issues, we have overcome, now, if we could only do something about the National Debt..

Now on a more serious note.... these are troubled times that have fallen upon all of us, we are in the midst of planning our Luncheon in New York, but we are also aware of the War, that has become a



part of our daily lives.. Our thoughts are with the great effort being made by our Troops, and we wish them a very heartfelt "Safe Home."

After more than 2 years as President of PN, I am stepping aside as President, to become the "Liaison Officer." This is due to expected time away from the group, and other important commitments. I will continue to work very closely with the Newsletter, and assist in any possible way I can. I wish the new president the very best.

Thank all of you for your support, keep those letters coming, you're really what makes this group happy and excited about what we are doing... Bless you all!! GENE

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: _____

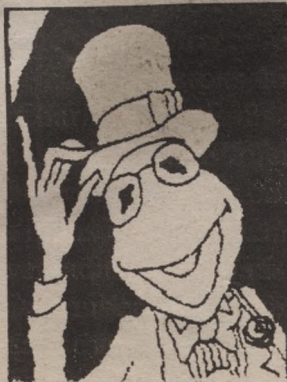
1991 DUES - \$ 15.00 PER YEAR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PEACOCK NORTH

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

MINI LUNCH AT PICCO

Really, really looking ahead. Here's one for your June 1991 datebook. For a variety of reasons, we will have our next **Mini Lunch** at the popular Picco Lissimo Restaurant on Route 9, Ft, Lee, N.J., a mile south of the Geo Washington Bridge, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH AT 12:30 pm.** Can't make it ? We'll give you a second chance, Tuesday, August 6th, same place, same time. **Be There !**



I WILL ATTEND MAXI LUNCH

Sunday April 28, 1991
at La Maganette Ristorante

Name _____ Guest/Spouse _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Fee \$ 20.00 per person

Make check out to PEACOCK NORTH

Cut out this form and mail with check to :

Pete Peterson, 30 Ann Arbor Place, Closter, New Jersey, 07624



NASHVILLE, 1968 : Left to right, **FRANK BADAMI**, Unit manager, **EDDY ARNOLD**, Country Music Star, **MARIAN EISKAMP**, then Production Asst., and the ever popular **CHET HAGAN**, Formerly known as the Star Producer of the NBC Instant News Specials (plus lots more). This group was in Nashville, Tenn. in 1968 to film a recording session for the Documentary **MUSIC FROM THE LAND**. Eddy Arnold narrated the one hour program tracing the origins of country music to its rise in the industry, making Nashville **MUSIC CITY, USA**. Eddy was seen on the Summer Kraft Music Hall from Brooklyn Studios, and also the Country Music awards in Nashville. Many of us enjoyed working on these TV shows. Chet hangs his hat in Wernersville, Pa., Eddy recently went thru a heart by-pass, and Frank, I regret to say, has passed away. He was a cameraman, then unit mgr for Kraft Music Hall and the news area. He once chartered a 707 on his AMEX credit card to fly news film to Nightly News from London, for a scoop. Later after NBC he was assoc./Producer for Alan King. We all cherish him as a good friend... **Many thanks to Marian Eiskamp for sharing this photo.....** Heino **MARIAN**, seeing our ancient political convention photo in the PN Newsletter, wrote, "We had a blast in LA that year. The big problem was the distance we had to travel back and forth. We stayed in Hollywood, and by the time we cabbed to the convention center, we had spent our per diem.... But we beat CBS in our coverage and NBC upped the ante, so life was beautiful.... Am still being asked to speak about my NBC days. Alas, I think I've become a stand up comic. I embellish the stories so that even I don't know what's the truth, what's fiction. An NYC editor had asked me to write a book, and I set about it. But a few anecdotes does not make a book! ... Had a lot of wonderful company this past year. Now, who would have thought anyone would come to Greenville, Tenn.? ?.... I was fortunate getting out of New Jersey before Gov. Florio raised all those taxes!..... Marian Eiskamp

HACKENSACK, N.J.
FEB 28 1991
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