

Editor: Dan Grabel - Designed/Published by: Heino Ripp. 1993 Spring Edition

P. N. PEOPLE

by Heino Ripp

JOE MILROY (who I met at the earliest broadcasts of TV in the Iconoscope days in old 5F, who I think held together the operating group single handed in those days) sent in his dues from Boynton Beach, Fl. With it was this photo of an NBC camera setup at the 1940 Republican political convention. The video was sent to N.Y by a special coaxial cable, broadcast to the NY area, then relayed to the G.E. station in Schnectady and broadcast there. Boy and that was an event. Wonder if anyone dared then to talk about sending pictures from anywhere on earth for all to see?



Joe thanks us for keeping you all informed and entertained via the Newsletter. Thanks for the nice words, Joe.

Joe reveals that this year marks his sixtieth since starting with NBC, and I look forward to each issue and the memories it stirs of wonderful people and memorable times and events.

In addition, Joe included a WNBT (pre Nielson) rating system. He has a copy that was signed by such pioneers as Wankel, Duke, Townsend, Gronberg, Protzman, Conn, as well as "Doc: Morton and Warren Wade. (See Page 2. for the "Before Nielson" rating card)

ED LEDDY now from Brevard, North Carolina, joined P.N.. He began with NBC in 1942 in Radio and later doing development work in the lab and then to G.E.

"My time at 30 Rock started when all the studios were Radio studios (except 3H and 9C) and NBC was still the Red, White and Blue Networks. White being the International broadcasting which eventually became the voice of America. In 1957, 8G and 8H and several others had been converted to TV.

In all those years, I have been back twice, and would like to know how the place looks now. I hope eventually to get on the NBC net on the ham band.

The last time I came to the studios, I tried to think of someone that was still there, but I couldn't come up with anyone. The NBC operator remembered me, but the names I mentioned were either retired or dead.

I have a request to make. I would like to correspond with someone who would update me on the present studios. Drop me a line, I'd appreciate it. Every time Bryant Gumble says "studio 3B" on the Today Show, I think of Mr. District Attorney and many other radio shows that originated there. At that time I knew every square foot of the nine floors, from the 2nd floor studios to --- cont'd Page 2.

P.N. SPRING FESTIVAL

May 23, 1993

At La Maganette

Pete Peterson, major domo of P.N. announces the spring get-together this year will be on **Sunday the 23rd of May at La Maganette restaurant on 3rd Ave and Fiftieth Street. The tab is \$20. per person, and festivities begin at noon.**

Pete chose the New York City site again as being rather central, everyone is familiar with 50th street, easy to get to with public transportation and/or driving. Being Sunday, parking is easier and plentiful, and the City folk don't have to figure how to get out to the sticks.

The past bash-es have been well - received there and the food was always scrumptious. (Soup, AND salad, main course, dessert & coffee, and lots of old-timer friendliness)

Since the NBC 25 year dinner now *excludes* the retirees; since it appears that there probably will be no "P.N. Winter Festival"; since the absence of the mini-lunches; -- leaves only the "Florida Retirees March Festival" and P.N.'s "Maytime Bash", to get together.

We feel that the reasons people come to these events, are to schmooze and revel in the by-gone days of glory with their long-time co-worker friends, whom they miss a lot, especially if they have retired to distant places.

Yes, the opportunities for re-unions are becoming fewer and fewer.

So, we urge you to **make La Maganette an especially big affair**, so you and your friends can fill yourself with enough friendliness and warmth to last till the next get-together, which may be almost a year away. Feel good about having come, rather than feeling "wanting", that the next one is so far away.

The reservation application is on the inside of the back cover. Festivities begin an noon, and Don Pardo promises great weather!

As Jim Smart says, "Y'all come, ya heah!"

Fla. Retirees Bash A Smasheroo



Despite Mother Nature rampaging through the Eastern U.S. with its gigantic winter storm, some 130 managed to get to the NBCFR Bash, from all over the USA. Pres. **Walter Vetter** and **Hank Folkerts** and **Ed Taffee** et al, had a well organized and thoroughly enjoyable affair. Unusual highlight - when **Al Rice**, **Corey Leible**, **Bill Melanson**, **Sen Louie** and **Jerry Valdivia** arrived from NBC's TV- golf match in Orlando, in time to schmooze and fill in "Old Timers" with rumblings at 30 Rock. Some 25 folk couldn't make it. Storm'd in. Well, there's always next year.

the 8H organ loft where I used to watch Toscanini rehearse.

Below is a slice of the old N.B.C. CHIMES Magazine that Ed Leddy sent in. Ed is pictured in the center and look who is pictured at the top.. Yup, It's our own Dick Dudley.. Read some of the returning Vets names. Thanks for the article.

THE NBC MILITARY SCENE



The C. L. Menser and Wynn Wright of American Forces Network in England. Sgt. Dick Dudley acts as Program Director serving 50 large stations throughout Europe. His office overlooks Portland Place in London, and on a clear day he can see across the street.



Combat Infantryman Ed Leddy, who is now resuming his civilian duties in Engineering, is shown while hospitalized in England shortly after VE-Day. He also took the pictures of Dick Dudley and Frank Dombroski appearing on this page.



An ancient backdrop was used for this picture of Frank Dombroski, formerly of Supply. The picture was taken on an English estate. Last we heard, Frank was with

WELCOMED HOME

NBC Veterans Back on the Job

- Charles Bevis Admin. Asst.—Television
- Donald Bogert Personnel Asst.—Personnel
- Kathryn Collins Secretary—Traffic
- Joseph Conn S. Maintenance Engineer
- William Haerer Transmitter Engineer
- John Hartley Special Events Man.—Television
- Martin Hoade Sr. Editor—News
- Ralph C. Kendall Tour Supv.—GR
- Noran E. Kersta Television
- Edmund Leddy Apprentice Engineer
- William McClintock Budget Clerk, Executive
- James Murphy Stock Clerk—Engrg.
- Fred Moshier Copy Clerk—Press
- Gerard Petry Apprentice Engineer
- Thomas Rishworth Program

Congrats, Jim - And Bless You !

DEACON JAMES J. BLANEY

St. Luke Catholic Church
2757 Alderman Road
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

Ofcl - (813) 786-3648

Res: - (813) 785-4322

STATION WNBT
NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY
WEEK OF JUNE 30th — JULY 5th, 1941

Audio frequency 55.75 mc. NEW YORK CITY
Video frequency 51.25 mc.

	P.M.	
MONDAY June 30th	9:00-11:00	(1) Amateur Boxing at Jamaica Arena.
TUESDAY July 1st	2:00-5:00	(2) Baseball—Brooklyn Dodgers vs. Philadelphia at Ebbets Field.
	6:45-7:00	(3) Lowell Thomas.
	9:00-10:00	(4) Culmination of U. S. O. Drive with: Mr. Thomas E. Dewey Mrs. Winthrop W. Aldrich Mr. Walter Hoving Lt. General Hugh Drum Admiral Adolphus Andrews Mrs. Ogden L. Mills
		(5) Excerpts from the "Bottlenecks of 1941"—Fort Monmouth Signal Corps Replacement Training Center Show.
		(6) Truth or Consequences with Ralph Edwards.
WEDNESDAY July 2nd	2:30-5:00	(7) Eastern Clay Court Tennis Championships at Jackson Heights.
	9:00-10:00	(8) Feature Film "Death From A Distance" with Russell Hopton and Lola Lane.
THURSDAY July 3rd	2:30-5:00	(9) Eastern Clay Court Tennis Championships at Jackson Heights.
	9:00-10:00	(10) Variety. (11) Julien Bryan, Photographer-Lecturer.
FRIDAY July 4th	2:30-5:00	(12) Eastern Clay Court Tennis Championships at Jackson Heights.
	9:00-10:00	(13) Film "Where the Golden Grapefruit Grows" (14) "Words On The Wing", a Streamlined Spelling Bee.
SATURDAY July 5th	2:30-5:00	(15) Eastern Clay Court Tennis Championships at Jackson Heights.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Please Check Your Opinion Regarding Program Content And Mail Card to Us
NO STAMPS REQUIRED

Name	Address	1. Amateur Boxing	2. Baseball game	3. Lowell Thomas	4. Culmination of U. S. O. Drive	5. "Bottlenecks of 1941" Excerpts	6. Truth or Consequences	7. Tennis Championships	8. "Death From A Distance" Film	9. Tennis Championships	10. Variety	11. Julien Bryan	12. Tennis Championships	13. "Where the Golden Grapefruit Grows" Film	14. "Words On The Wing" Spelling Bee	15. Tennis Championships
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EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR
POOR

No. 1

This is a copy of the 1941 WNBT-tv Post Card sent to viewers with a score card. Probably more accurate than today's Nielsens. Pretty classy, eh?.. Baseball. Boxing, Truth or consequences, Lola Lane film, Variety, Tennis from Jackson Heights..So what's new in today's TV ???... Thanks Joe

PEOPLE cont'd

JIM SCHAEFFER (who started at NBC in 1947) writes from Hinesburg, Vermont that he certainly enjoyed the December function and saw so many old friends.

JIM REINA : Thought you would get a kick out of seeing the old "TONIGHT" logo again. I think I may have the last of the stationary in existence. (Tried to copy it, but "TONIGHT" wasn't readable, so couldn't print it).

Recently experienced a "cardiac episode" which resulted in angioplasty. Blocked artery! All is well now.

Best regards from my wife, Gloria Cromwell, one of the early color test patter girls. (Now, they mount the cameras, turn them on and roll tape! No Test Pattern- H.)

(By the way Jim, where is Dwight Hemion these days??? Retired yet?)

Didn't you take a gang with Steve Allen for their show from Havana? Red McKinnon and Bill Goetz have talked a lot about what a great trip that was. (with Castro's bombs going boom in the background!) - So be an author, Write an article.

cont'd pge 3.

MARIAN EISKAMP: To Pete & Peg: I hafta say it again - The newsletter just gets better and better. Look forward to it and read it thru several times - God Forbid I should miss anything.

Plan to go to Florida to visit with some friends on Marco Island the end of March. Guess everyone is going to Fla. because I had a time getting reservations - Then in May am off to Oregon. I Think about New York, but methinks I will wait till the fall. I see all that snow up there and it looks real pretty - In Tennessee we had snow the other nite and it was gone by afternoon. My kind of town!

Am feeling terrific (OH dear I gained back the weight I lost - well chocolate is not in anyone's diet). I see the Doc in March and hope all will be okay. I takes me two pills a day and that is it and hope that's the way it will stay.

Trust you are busy with your "girls". YOU did a terrific job with the "Winterset" or whatever you called it this year. I can imagine the anxiety level with that weather but the pics were so great you can see everyone had a good time.

Since now I see youall doing stories from the glory years, I am enclosing one of my finest moments on TODAY. Feel free to use it or not - rejection doesn't bother me any more. I think it's called *maturity*. I dragged this material out because when I read **Bill Klages'** story about the FIREFLIES, I thought of my "Ivan" story. Never shall I look at another firefly without thinking of Bill. You know how funny these things are after years go by but at the time you can just die or go to cardiac arrest. (See **Marian's IVAN** further along the newsletter - H. Also maybe we're getting like the "Inquirer" - filling the pages with everything you-all send us!).

Speaking about everything you send us, **CARMINE PICIOCCIO** writes, He gets a big kick out of the items submitted by his former co-workers. He got a call from **Al Camoin** and Al put **Bob Fraraccio** who was visiting, and the two ran up the phone bill with old memories. Carmen tells about the time when Ken Arber and his crew were doing the 11 p.m. news with **John K.M. McCaffrey**. Seems as to the whole camera crew was across the street at the local watering hole thinking that the 11 o'clock News went on at 11:15. Carm wound up doing the three cameras and the prompter at the same time until the 1st Commercial, when some help arrived from the control room. He has an "Atta-Boy Letter" from **Tom Smiley** for their efforts. (No wonder they had

to put a pbx extension in Hurley's!) **3.**

VIC ROBY : It was a real pleasure to attend that luncheon, and I look forward to the next at La Maganette. Vic tells Pete- I've got to hand it to you for Keeping the Peacock North strutting its colors. I don't know how you can find the time to do it... just hope you're not neglecting your grandchildren!!

In addition he asks - Aside from two words omitted and one added to my original "manuscript and in "Whitehouse Christmas", was it a POLITICAL decision to omit the fourth to last line???

Just to show you that we do read and listen to our readers, I would like to make pennance and will make note of our **GROSS ERRORS** - in spite of getting blinder as I grow older and not an 80 words per minute typist and my overburdened overstaff'd staff and the computer's lousy spell checker - especially at 3am... BUT, here again is the real last paragraph of Whitehouse Christmas, created especially for January's Newsletter, by the poet pro-tem, **VIC ROBY**.

I suggest you all grab your last issue, turn to page 24 and paste in the newest version, with my deepest regrets.

So under the porch or within a thick wall -
You should dash away! Cash away! Stash away all!

Uncle Sam will come after you wanting some more!-
Because whether it's Clinton, Bush, Quail or Al Gore

So in FRONT of the yule tree here's wishing you cheer -
Peacock North, Merry Christmas and ...
HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

(And Yes ! I did vote for Perot! H.) And Vic keep those poems coming !

"RED" McKINNON writes from Hollywood to give his regards to all and hopes to make one of the Mini-Lunches in the future. Guess he's recovered from the gall bladder problem while working on last fall's Miss America
GARTH DIETRIC sends us a huge letter on one of those "Post-ems", thanks Pete for flattering him with a request to write us an article. Say's he'll try, but as most of us, he can't see the tunnel, no less he light at the end of it. Also thanks for the nice words re: Newsletter.

BOB HILL formerly from TVC in NYC, and a bi-plane pilot of renoun says he's doin' just fine in Florida. Nice to hear from you Bob.

CISSY LINDEMANN sends us some dues - wouldn't miss PN for the world.
HAL SCHNEIDER includes his dues with the stipulation and hope of reading about someone he knows from Radio. Hal enjoys reading about the new as well as the old ones who came out of radio, complaining that we don't tell of the radio folk that were there before the one camera TV out of Philadelphia in 1948. If any of you have any notes about any radio guys and gals Hal knows, please write us, cause that's the only way we will know. Hal was is Radio recording in the forties on.

IVAR NOORMAE, would you believe, another Estonian! Tervist eesti sõber. Ivar relates that the Nor'Easter went thru our house in December, with seven inches of salt water over the lower floor, so refurbishing has been the order of the day.

My wife is doing her "Melalwuka multi-level marketing business". This is one of the most reputable one around for people who have the desire to earn extra income, keeps the mind alert and meets interesting people from all walks of life.

Daughter Heli to be a mom by April, making us grandparents for the first time. Junior is working for his MBA at Hofstra.

My earnings statement tells me that NBC has demoted me in absentia, while out on a medical. No one has come forth to tell me..

My arthritis is still bothering me enough to keep me away, but pursue the brighter side of things.

VINNY DIPIETRO, pens a note. He and Marie were delighted to have Diane & Bob Juncosa, and then Howie Atlas visit them. He would be very happy to the number of visitors multiply.. May be visiting N.Y. this spring.. Bob & Howie are helping Vince get on line with NABET's Bulletin board as he breaks in his new 386 computer. Love's the newsletter.. Vinny, please make sure the hammer is not near, for if you're like most of us computer afficionados, there are too many times when you'd like to smash the thing for not doing what you want it to do! Enjoy Cal. life!

GIGI HAROLD off skiing in Colorado for 10 days. Hopes to be at the luncheon.

JOE HEWES's memory tweaked by the newsletter and can't believe he's been retired for 5 1/2 years, and has been living in the northwest corner of So. Carolina for Five years! Time goes too fast! (Tell me). Says thanks to the Good Lord, he and his wife are well and doing fine..Wants to extend his best to, Gene Martin and, gee, me, as well as the rest of the P.N. gang... Hopes that his once annual visit to N.Y might coincide with one of the P.N. gatherings.

JEAN FITZPATRICK (Mrs. Jack Fitz, L.D.) regrets not being able to attend any of PN Events, and enjoys reding the newsletter which mentions many of Jack's friends. Last Nov. she broke her arm - in a cast all Dec. 80% healed now. However back to work now and driving! Hopes to attend LaMaganette in spring. (Jeanie, it would be nice to see you, havent seen you since eons ago in Stamford. -H.)

The Newsletter is having some time catching up with **ARNIE DICK** wintering in Fla.- is looking forward to meeting the gang at the NBCFR get together. Hopes to be able to attend LaMaganette bash in NYC.
BERNIE JACOBS (Now at CBS) wants to be remembered to the PN'ers.

MAURICE DICK sends in his dues and sends regards to all of you who remember him from the third floor. Last time I heard, Maurice was basking in the sun in his Puerto Rico condo!.. What a nice thought since today happens to be the 13 March as I write this, and I just finished shovelling a path of over two-foot-high snow for our two shi-tsu's to run around in the back yard.

GEORGE HEINEMANN sent us a card dismayed that we hadn't printed his article. There was so much material there to try to get into an article, that we have to postpone it, for my Mrs constantly reminds me that there is another life besides even the PN Newsletter. Hang on George, possibly you could us with your own shorter version.

cont'd pge 7.

By Dan Grabel

column B

column C

As Will Rogers, who is still au courant 50 years after his death, would say it -- "All I know is what I read in the papers", and as we check the tabs and the sharp-tongued columnists, it appears NBC no longer seems "proud as a peacock".

Life, especially at WNBC News, seems grim under the aegis of general Manager Bill Bolster and News Director Bruno Cohen, the midwesterner and west coaster imported to shape up the operation.

A February issue of the N.Y. Observer did a long autopsy that revealed a lot of warts and blemishes that seem a far cry from a spit and polish operation. And we'll quote liberally since the Observer provides so much grist. But first, one aside: remember the days when NBC had a dept of Standards and Practices to insure good taste? That, of course, was a victim of cost-cutting long ago. Hey, how much can they add to the year's income??

The Observer started off with a look at the tech side:

- A newscaster intos a murder outside the CIA and a tape rolls on a Bronx hostage-taker.
- Chuck Scarborough vamps for 30 seconds while the tape room searches for a Woody Allen story.
- During another newscast a blank screen greeted viewers for 2 1/2 minutes.

Per diem employees are all over the

place. First in the engineering department and now, too, among on-air reporters. One of the current daily hires, I recall, was something of an obnoxious misfit during his first stint at NBC. But he's back.

Bolster, notes the observer, commutes home to St. Louis every weekend. Would seem he is not risking a permanent move to the Big Apple. To his credit however, he did move KSDK up from fourth to first in the St. Louis market.

The newest management person is Dan Forman, a former producer for the controversial radio smut host Howard Stern. Two items on Forman's resum : He produced Stern's "Butt Bongo Fiesta", a home video in which male guests on Stern's show drummed on their girlfriend's buttocks with their hands. He also appeared on the Stern Show in his underwear and wearing a dog collar. Forman's job at News for New York, and here we quote from News Director Cohen's memo introducing him, "primary responsibility for stylistic, aesthetic and technical aspects of all broadcasts". Everybody at the news operation reports to him.

Bolster says that part of the station's problem is that everyone is not on close relationship with the stars - "A lot of the assistants have not met Chuck Scarborough", goes one quote. "We've

got to bring camaraderie to television. It's lacking here". Bolster believes such contacts will "turn this place into a television station". He's also proud of the fact that he was the first one to put a sign in the lobby of 30 Rock reading "Welcome to the home of WNBC". (Hmmm, and has that increased ratings?

Cohen, by the way, is the ninth news director at WNBC in the past ten years. We recall some stats several years back that revealed the average tenure of a N.D. was 2 1/2 years, so WNBC might be designated a war zone. Reporter Mary Civiello is quoted as saying Cohen is more concerned with financial considerations and where the station stands in the marketplace than he is with journalism. We can't fault him too much muck for that since NBC is no longer living in the golden days. But it doesn't seem incompatible to have good taste, good programming and a profitable business.

Back to the Observer: Remember how a pile of local papers would be deposited on the editor's desks each morning? No more. Personal subscriptions are out and a community copy of the papers is attached to a library rack outside Cohen's office. (That makes is difficult to clip the want ads under "Editorial Positions"). Reporters were told to itemize their cellular phone bills and write a check

column D

reimbursing NBC for personal calls. There has been a change in the commissary, too. Apparently too many outsiders were using it, so prices have been raised 20 percent. However, when true-blue NBC-ers dint there, they get a 20 % discount if they show their ID cards. That should keep some visiting retirees out of the Enbeecee, or whatever they call it today. And don't visit with a group larger than five persons. You'll need a reservation !

Sick call must be a major problem because we've been reading three pages of official memos on just whom an employee phones when under the weather. And no excuse for not reaching him/her. The memo lists office phones, home phones and beeper numbers. Another memo lists what is called "Charts to prioritize your sick call-ins". It's the pecking order of whom you call first if you're an anchor, a reporter, a field producer, or an editor. Very tidy.

And don't try to crash into these exclusive new offices on the sixth and seventh floors which have been joined by a special staircase. You can't enter without an electronic ID, a magnetic card that has been encoded by the security department. (But remember Goldfinger once broke into Fort Knox in a James Bond flick, so maybe an American Express gold card will do the trick.

As you might expect, the atmosphere

column E

has led some staffers to decide the time has come for leave taking. We saw one invitation to a January "I Took the Buyout Party" for Ginny Russo (wife of reporter David Diaz). But before they put it through the Xerox machine (hmmm, did they do that on a company machine without reimbursement?), four more names were added to the list of departees (producer Rick Kramer, editor Bruce Ferguson, producer Laurie McCall and producer Barbara Rick -- and remember these are hard times to find a good job in TV!) It was 30 bucks a head at the Assembly, so we hope all were well fed at the last supper. Gosh it was cheaper to get out in our day! While there was yet another buyout package being offered around, none of these people were reportedly on the hit list, so it must have been awfully unpleasant to force their decisions to exit.

Reported David Diaz, a fifteen year veteran, is among the recent departures. He was reportedly offered a \$600,000 for a three year contract, a slight cut from his former pay, when he decided he could not stomach life with the peacock. When we checked this one out we heard that management -- anxious for a spicy series during the ratings season -- asked Diaz to do a series on "priests who have sex".

The final bit. It is said Gabe Pressman, who arrived at 30 Rock nearly 40 years ago and has been a pillar ever since, also

column F

was being pressured to come up with a little sex expos . Since Gabe hangs out at City Hall and police headquarters, it would appear he'd have some high visibility names to brighten the evening's roundup of scandal.

Looks like the only thing the old Alma Mater hasn't done to win its way to first place, is hire Howard Stern as anchor man.

NBC Pres. Bob Wright informed the staff in a February memo, of three executive changes made to improve the product: Don Ohlmeyer, the sports maven, comes aboard as President, NBC West Coast. Randy Falco becomes President, Broadcast and Network Operations, and Mike Sherlock becomes Executive Vice President, Technology, to spearhead High Definition TV and other emerging improvements in transmission.

David Miller, director of foreign news coverage, and the NBC crew assigned to Somalia, were truly in a hardship area. One of their early requests was for bottled water, first aid equipment and cash. Tom Brokaw dined on Cup of Soup packets and peanut butter for his dinner. One NBC staffer, not identified, was bumped from a flight out of Mogadishu and was promptly mugged for his cash and his tee shirt. **cont'd pge 10.**

Arthur Kent, who unfortunately got labeled "Scud Stud" in as earlier war, has filed a \$25 million suit versus NBC

The Editor Speaketh

By Dan Gabel

Critic's Notebook

Truth or Consequences in TV News

By WALTER GOODMAN

In a breathing space between the servings of crow and humble pie that he downed on behalf of NBC News Tuesday night, Stone Phillips reassured viewers that the contested "Dateline" program about the propensity of some General Motors pickup trucks to burst into fire in a collision had presented "all sides of the controversy." He was like a man gulping a quick Alka-Seltzer toward

Reflections on show-biz journalism and the NBC retraction.

(Then Patty realized her own two baby girls were still inside.)

the first time they themselves like higher good. B and-fire picture. The program ing technique on television demand the ently do no dence even it seemed

G.M. Suspends Ads on NBC News Despite Apology for Truck Report

By BILL CARTER

Despite a long and detailed on-air apology from NBC News, General Motors said yesterday that it had suspended advertising on NBC News pro-

gram. NBC News president and general counsel G.M., and Benjamin Heineman general counsel for the General Electric Company, the parent company of NBC. Richard Cotton, the general manager for NBC, said Mr. Heineman had the direct contact with General Motors.

In Suit, G.M. Accuses NBC of Rigging Crash Tests

By DORON P. LEVIN
Special to The New York Times

DETROIT, Feb. 8 — In a defamation suit filed in Indiana, the General Motors Corporation today accused NBC and an independent testing laboratory of rigging crash tests for a network broadcast so that certain pickup trucks would appear vulnerable to gas-tank explosions in collisions from the side.

A televised crash test is called deceptive.

a jury in Atlanta returned a \$1 million verdict against the auto maker in the death of a 17-year-old boy who was killed in a 1989 crash in a pickup. The company is appealing the verdict.

NBC Settles Truck Crash Lawsuit, Saying Test Was 'Inappropriate'

By ELIZABETH KOLBERT

In an extraordinary public confession, NBC acknowledged last night that it had erred in broadcasting a report that purported to show a General Motors pickup truck taking fire as a

contractors did put incendiary devices under the trucks to insure there would be a fire if gasoline were released from the gas tank. NBC personnel know this before we aired the program, but the public was not informed because con-

CLINTO LOWE

Savings Seen

By T

NBC EATS LOTSA CROW TO SETTLE GM LEGAL SUIT

Jane Pauley and Stone Phillips introe'd the Feb 9 Dateline magazine news show with a passing mention that they'd talk about the GM situation "later in the program". We're not regular viewers but after reading the NYTimes story charging NBC with rigging a crash test of a GM truck, and that it would all be explained on Dateline, we tuned in and waited through the recreation journalism of other stories. The technique is popular with a lot of trash news shows like Current Affair, but ratings are ratings, so that's the way GE's News has gone.

As an ex newsman at the net, we wondered how Jane and then Stone must have cringed after Jane said lawyers for GM and NBC had met earlier in the day and prepared the following statement.

It was crow, crow, crow. NBC admitted it had made a huge mistake; rockets had been placed on the crash car to insure a blast, the wrong gas cap was on the truck, the gas tank was overloaded, their estimate of the speed of the crash vehicle

was incorrect, the test was unscientific, truck buyers should look for valid tests of truck safety when making a purchase. Jane and Stone took turns in reading the legal apologies. They kept on for about three minutes or more, and they didn't look too happy. NBC credibility has been set back eons by this one. And Lord knows how much its going to cost in cold cash. Usually the defense lawyers include silence on details as part of the settlement, so probably we'll never know.

When GM cried "blatant deception", after the original November broadcast of Dateline, News prexy Michael Gartner replied, "We do not believe that any statements broadcast were either false or misleading."

GM had some savvy execs on this one. When they asked NBC if they could examine the trucks, they were told they had been junked and were not available. GM checked a junk yard near the Indiana test site and found the vehicles! Heck, if NBC had ever watched Columbo or

Murder She Wrote, they'd know you don't leave clues like that hanging around.

Pauley and Phillips finished up with some additional embarrassing remarks about sound journalism. This show is not going to enhance their careers. It's not quite like having Kennedy and Biden on the Senate Ethics Committee, but they will no longer come off as authoritative reporters of the day's new's. The incident will go into the archives with other hoaxes perpetrated by over-zealous reporters of the news. Will an axe fall on producers' heads to emphasize that the gaff should not be repeated? Will Gartner's office put a memo on the computer? And will our inside sources provide us with a copy? Its all sure to be reprised in the Washington Journalism Review in the "J" school classes all over the nation. But, hey, if you're reading this, you must be a retiree - you worked for that other NBC! Remember, "Proud as a Peacock" and accurate too.

NBC has agreed, as part of the settlement, to pick up the costs of GM's investigation of the "Dateline" creative journalism and one estimate is that the tab will be one million dollars.

Gartner, it is interesting to note, was not aware of the November "Dateline" story until February when the "fit hit the shan". Be nice if he'd find time to check on the programming his News Dept is producing.

CONCLUSION on bott Page 10.

JOIN PEACOCK NORTH
For Application
See Back Page

Have The Best Of Two Worlds
Join N B C F R in South
And Peacock North in North !



Herb Oxman lent us this photo, from Jan. 5, 1952, of the crew doing the Camel Commercials for "The Show Of Shows"..

Herb Oxman, Keith Martin, Vic Ferrari, Dick Davis, Hank Scott, Bob Weintraub's ear, Jack Winnocur....



From the Elmer Gorry Archives, a 1970 group shot of the TONIGHT SHOW folk.

I see Elmer in the back row., three to the left is Hal Venho, AD, four more to the left is our beloved stage manager, four to right of Elmer of course is Doc Severenson, Ed McMahon at extreme right.. Center row left, Peter Lasalle, looks like Director, Bobby Quinn, against desk. Front row, left, 2nd in is Ted Riesack, props dept..... If anyone can name all of the crowd, trace out the heads and send it to us us.

ED WACKERNAGLE heard on the NBC Hamnet quite frequently with a booming signal from California gives all 73's and 88's.

ROGER TUTTLE recently returned from Florida - had a nice breakfast with Hank Folkerts, Walt Vetter and all the Radio Ham crew. I understand the aircraft builder is coming along well with his new creation, a two seater KOLB ultralight plane. Just don't rush it Roger.

JIM GIBBINGS recuperating from open heart surgery - triple by pass plus valve replacement. The best Jim.

SCOTT McCARTNEY wants to let everyone know that all is well in Palm Springs, Ca. He plays golf and tennis all week, takes Sunday off to rest from all this work.... If any of the old gang passes thru Palm Springs, the welcome mat is always out.

SUSAN DiORIO, now a legal resident of Pompano Beach, Fla. has also joined the NBCFR, still keeping the Riverdale co-op in case the weather gets too hot for her.

VINCE VACCA and spouse Sabra went up to Nantucket, Mass. after returning from Barcelona, bought a real old house, and now are in the process of restoration. Hope to have it completed by late March.

---- Who is this handsome young fellow?? Is he contemplating playing Santa Claus?? - NO, - it's

DOC POTTER in July 1938, when he first got his amateur radio license; he also sent these 1948 Chimes magazine clip.



Robert Potter, from Television Student in Engineering to Television Engineer.

Robert Potter, Engineering, is \$25 richer for suggesting the use of a reel jack for reeling and unreeling cables in Television.

Michael Gilligan, Engineering, won \$15 for suggesting that employees be brought up-to-date on "what to do in case of fire."

WES PAULSEN (Broadcast Systems Engineering) has been keeping the medical people busy with his prostate problem. Feels he is in good hands and pretty positive that all will go well. (We too wish, you well Wes)....

But on a happier note, Wes tells us that Wes Paulsen Jr. and his wife Paulette are as pleased (as are Wes Sr. and Elena, the grandparents (boy everyone is a grandparent now-a-days)) that Jason (of Post Production) has been accepted by the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, having been nominated by the Secretary of the Navy himself!

Jason, the grandson, has been attending Navy Training School on Orlando, Fl. since his enlistment a year and half ago. He graduated with high honors from electronics school, receiving a promotion to 3rd class petty officer. He is now about to complete the Nuclear physics course; after which he'll be transferred to Charleston, N.C. for hands on training for a few months. About mid summer he'll see a transfer again to Newport, R.I. for his entry to the Naval Academy Prep School.

It was while Jason was on Orlando that a number of his training officers took note of his abilities and communicated with the Academy and other Naval officials, resulting in his nomination by the Secretary. The Academy asked

Jay to start football training upon his arrival..

With all that going on, I hope he doesn't lose sight of all the nice things in life to enjoy, like girls.

[Usually we don't print long family stories, but, I was very delighted to read about something positive, rather than all the terrible stories one hears about today's youth] Bet Giraldo wouldn't use this story, But someone should. Congrats Jay and best of luck !

NICK RAWLUK enjoys the good memories that P.N. brings back to him. Thanks Nick - want to dolly Mulvaney on the Sanner Dolly again at the - cont'd pge 8.

BARBARA CLINE writes to thank us for the nice blurb in last Newsletter. Her husband Dick, sports director, went to the "wrap-party" in Barcelona and the next day was notified that his contract would not be renewed. So now he is freelance, like many others... Barbara noted that she was happy to see the photo of Jim Schaeffer in the last issue. He was her 1st boss at NBC 25 yrs ago.. Barb asked what was that gathering? Was the Winterfest, P.N.'s year end Bash. The next one will be at La Maganette on the 23 of May. See Last page for reservation form.

O.TAMBURRI wanted a copy of the Newsletter to send to former Unit Manager (NBC) and recently a BIG producer with the Golden Girls that Tambi worked with in Calif. (Harry and I spent some scary nights with the teamsters while in Hawaii doing a Perry Como show in Oahu with Dwight Hemion. They were a bit upset that we drove our own trucks from the pier to our first location, Duke Kahamanoka's (? on spelling). Tambi, hope you and the Mrs. are well, and are enjoying retirement.

ED VOSS sends a note that he is now living in Chincoteague, Virginia. Says, when P.N. arrives, everything stops until he has devoured every last word.

DORIS ANN sent a nice note from Fort Worth, Texas where she now makes her home.

CLAY ACKERSON took out a bit of time to say how much he enjoys the Newsletter. Since spring '91 he has been fighting a battle with prostate cancer. After radiation therapy and a series of hormone shots, it appears to have been arrested. Tries to play golf with Lois at least once a week. Has gotten together with Don Pike and Jerry Caruso. Clay says Jerry has done s SUPER job on an old plantation house. Ends with a Regards to "Y'all".

Regards from us'all up here too, miss you guys!

DELBERT MANN thanks Dick Dudley for a copy of the P.N., says it's the first he's heard that there was such an organization. Feels he would be an imposter were he to join the group. Del was a director for the Philco Playhouse series, which Fred Coe produced.

MARY STRINGFIELD formerly from personnel feels she's once again challenged in her new job and love building a new dept. Misses NBC people a good deal.

FRANCIS McKIERNAN: While Rose and I were in N.Y. for Christmas, stopped in at 30 Rock to have lunch at the NBC cafeteria. On the way to the commissary, John Marrin came thru a door, behind him Harry Tucker, and then Howard Reig walks by. Didn't expect to see anyone I knew, and here were three familial faces...

BILL RAKER send in his dues, from Flat Rock, North Carolina, with a query. What ever became of Lighting Director Bob Riley ? Did you ever hear from him??

HOPE SHINKOFF sends her dues to Pete and best wishes for his continues good works on the activities of Peacock North.

DOLORES PARYLAK enjoyed the photos in P.N., that she going to try to unbury some old 50's pix for us

CLARK JONES writes a short note. "The latest issue of PN just arrived and I devoured it. Keep up the good work". Always nice to hear from you Clark !

WALTER WERNER promises that one day he'll send us a digest of his doings. In Fla., nothing too adventurous or exciting, but am enjoying the good life. Wishes someday to join you northerners at a get together. Regards to all.

DICK WILLIAMS now living in Washington State, says he might be 2,800 miles away but you guys make it seem like just around the block, - you remove 50 years from my life (if only temporarily). Their big trip this year will be to Tennessee via their motor home sometime after April 15th.

International theater again ?? Naah! Forget it, enjoy all your free time.

ANN KRAMER thanks Pete and all the behind the scenes laborers for keeping fresh the wonderful memories of NBC's Golden Years! Signs it, (how else?) - "Peace!"

SUMNER WEENER says - sorry he missed the Winter bash, but did enjoy reading about in PN. Wants to give his best to his old NEWS division friends, - including Bambi, Gloria.

The idea is catching on! Here is another new member **KEN KEEFER** (from TV Network Advertising & Promotion), brought in by **WILLIAM McCONNELL**. Anyone else know someone who isn't a member yet ??

VIRA GUARINO decided to stay with us for another year. Sent in her dues! Appreciate it Vira.

DON BLAIR writes a nice long letter from his new Florida digs. Look for his letter, copied in later pages on PN.

JOHN DEEG (Electronic mtce, et al) writes from Sag Harbor, L.I., N.Y. that he;d like to come to the get-togethers, but it's a bit too far from the Eastern end of Long Island (at least 90 miles into NYC for those out of towners). He sees a lot of **Bill Hildreth** out there, and one of these days promises to sent photos and news from out there. At least you're thinking of us John.. Hello to Bill Hildreth for us also...

PAUL ROEDER writes us from Toms River, N.J. Says seeing about 4 doctors at the present time keeps him hopping. Is pleased to receive the Newsletter to keep up the goings on with his old buddies. He's amazed with the quality of the paper and clarity of the photos. Stay well Paul. We hear Puul on the NBC Ham Net every once in a while. **You Hams, please join in on 20 meters 14.223 at weekdays 9:45 am til about 10:30.** Listen for **K4KO**, Hank Folkerts in Fla., or **W2NL N.C.**, **W2ZIF** in Calif.

Was nice to see **BILL HANRAHAN** attend the Winter Celebration, apparently t'was mutual, for he wrote: Peter, Great time at the Clifton Ramada Gathering. Superb job by you, your dear wife Peg, Heino et al.

We enjoyed it tremendously!, Bill.....

Just got off the phone with **SCOTT SCHACHTER** who is amongst the Pisceans having Birthdays this month, which include **myself**, **BOBBY CAMINITI**, ad from **SNL**, **JAN KASOFF**, and **MAUREEN TELLER** who doesn't have to dig out of the snow in Scottsdale, Arizona. Scotty is planning to go very soon to Italy and France. Nice to hear from you Scott.

MARY LOU FATOVICH who has moved to Shelbourne, Vt. where she finds that her mail hasn't caught up with her yet. Says she's hanging out with **Jean & Jim Schaeffer**. I detected a bit of a groan when she says, com'on up, it's real cold!! **PETER** is still hanging out at the Letterman show.

BOB ASMAN pens a note revealing that he too has cut loose of the Big Peacock. After 31 years and couple more as a guide while attending Columbia, Bob's not retiring, but plans to continue in Television as a consultant and free-lance producer and media trainer. He should be proud to have such a large number of credits attached to his career. One of them being in Berlin covering J.F.Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. and many, many more accomplishments; as well as being a wonderful human being.

NORM BLUMENTHAL sends regards to all us PN'ers.

SID DAVIDSON writes from Aurora, Colorado: Always interested in hearing about my former colleagues. Have made one NBCFR's get togethers and hope to make one of P.N.

Not retired yet, will be 71 soon (March). Spent a couple of years in

managing four projects totalling 1200 acres. Now am Quality Control Manager at the new Denver Int'l Airport (world's largest construction project), with special emphasis on RF Communications, Cable TV, Fiber Optics, Radar etc. (A man who likes to keep busy).

Sid promises to send in some old photograph..

FRANK O'KEEFE send us his best regards. Is busy doing a newsletter of his own for his community, finds it interesting as well as challenging. Reading P.N. brings back many happy hours of time spent with his extended family (You). Frank encloses a "Show biz" poem.

ANOTHER OPENING ANOTHER SHOW

The velvet curtain of the night slowly, ever so slowly rises
The awakening sun, gives promise of warmth and light and countless surprises

It will seek out all those players, all waiting in the wings
The ageless mountains, trees and skies, the living breathing things

And as it slowly rises to reach a brilliant hue
The Star of the performance, stands waiting for his cue
Framed in the glory of the sun, its coat ablaze with light
The rooster throws his head back, and crow with all it might

A continuing performance, it's repeated every morn
So set your clocks to wake up, just a moment before dawn
And catch this longest running show, it's there for all to see
Directed bu the Hand of God, a spectacular for free.

Frank O'Keefe... Dec 1990

CHARLIE O'LOUGHLIN gave a gift P.N. subscription to John Behrendt. What a good idea!

ED ROSSI has moved into a Scottsdale, Az. Apartment until they build or buy a new house. Asks Pete for an address list of PN folk for "it would be nice to get in touch with many of his old friends.

JOHN DIEHLMAN, living in Copague, New York, took a buyout in 1989 and now has started his own construction business. **Bill Shortridge** told him about PN, and of course John wants to join you all. Welcome John. (John worked in the technical stock room with **Lou West**, **Ray Glendon** and **Wes Conant**. Went to management in 74 in Special Effects with **Dick Aimone** and **Carl Ricca**.) (Hey Carlo, haven't heard from you in a coons age). In 1981, John went back to the Technical Stock room as a supervisor. Come see your old gang at La Maganette on May 23rd John!

JERRY SAVITCH (electric) says still on the job in 6B, It's doom and gloom here nowadays. If the company would offer him a decent buyout, maybe he might leave. IA severance is not like NABET's. See you at the next function.

ROBERT E. HANNA, JR., Attorney-at-Law, Santa Cruz, Ca. hopes to get back East for one of the functions. Keeping busy lawyer-ing for legal aid, cable-TV for the city and county and some video tape editing for community groups. Santa Cruz, Bob describes as a combination of Atlantic City and Greenwich Village 30 or 40 years ago... You may remember the earthquake story written by his missus a while back, when they had barely moved into their California home, their house rockin' and the driveway rollin'.. Hope all remains quiet on the western front!... **Dick Dudley** sends us a newsclip about Earl Wrightson, an early TV singer in the 40's and fifties. (See silent mikes) See if you can find Dick's Quiz de jour somewhere.

cont'd below ...

PEOPLE cont'd fm above R.

What ever happened to

HAL ALEXANDER? Well, he now lives in Woodland Hills, Calif., left NBC in New York in 1970, and immediately began working for NBC in Ca. Did Flip Wilson series, Sanford & Son, the Jack Benny series, Elvis in Hawaii and the Tomorrow Show etc. etc.. Worked on and off for NBC until about 1980.... Then worked as a director for Norman Lear where he directed Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman, What's Happen •

ing, Fernwood 2 Night, to name a few....

Soon after, worked at ABC on General Hospital where he stayed for 10 years... Now is in semi-retirement, couldn't be happier. Spends most of his time writing. Just finished his sixth screenplay, has a literary agent and his fingers are crossed. We'll cross a few for you also Hal.... Guess what Hal is looking for now?? a publisher for a just completed comedy book about television (All about the, yup, good old days of TV)

PERRY MASSEY sends along his yearly

Christmas letter: Our second year of retire-
ment has slipped by. The February rains
flooded out our kitchen, family room and
three bedrooms. Pam fought the waters for
hours, while Perry was stuck on the free-
way.. In April we drove to Rancho Bernardo
in San Diego house hunting. The houses
were as close and expensive as here, so
crossed that off our list... Perry worked part
time at SUNBREAK, the industrial video
firm. In August drove to Sun Lakes Country
Club near Palm Springs cont'd pge 26.

Memories

9.



N.B.C. SOFTBALL TEAM CHAMPS - 1953

Top, (L to R:)

Herb Oxman, Frank Woodruff, Art ? fm G.R., ?, fm reproduction srvc, ? fm G.R., Frank Gaeta ?, George Kiyak?, Maurey Verschore...

Bott: Gary Iorio (pitcher), Diane LaPorte, next two faces are familiar, but names escape us.



N.B.C.-A.A., 1953....Top:

-?: Tom McFadden, Radio Net VP, Joe Kent, Tax Dept, Pres Bowling League

Bottom Row:

Ellen Coughlin (Mrs. Woodruff) and Betty Wilcox, Personnel Dept, Spcl Svcs

accusing the net of breach of contract defamation and fraud. If this goes like many other employee and former employee cases against the net, it will take years and lots of cash before a decision is rendered. A suit by newswriters is now in its 8th year. Around 1978, older IATSE film editors who were bypassed in the switch to NABET and EJ, brought an age discrimination suit that dragged on and on, until the company finally settled about 8 years later and gave them each \$10,000.

John Cochran, replaced as White House correspondent by **Andrea Mitchell** when Bill Clinton moved in, is said to be looking elsewhere. (It's Mar.24 now and **John Cochran** is now senior Washington Correspondent)...

Tom Capra, former executive producer of "Today", is now a vice president and general manager at KTTV in L.A.

Humorist Chauncey Howell is doing features for New York One News, a local cable station, as well as a weekend contribution to "Broadcast New York", seen on WNBC on the weekend.

Another alumnus, **Jack Cafferty**, moved to channel five after he left WNBC, and he is now a co-anchor with Kaity Tong.

NBC and IBM have joined forces to create a "news on demand" system that enables personal computer users to retrieve videotaped news reports from a library and view them on their own computer screens. This will be for business, not home users.

Where are the viewers? Total network viewing has dropped 3.7 percent this season, so they've either moved to cable, or are reading books.

New York Live, a weekly newspaper, did a survey on the most over-rated personalities in the entertainment industry. Number One, no surprise, was Madonna. Number Two was **Bryant Gumble** and number Three was **Marla Maples**. Most underrated was impressionist **Dana Carvey**, followed by **Sue Simmons** and **Regis Philbin**.

Among the people NBC lawyers have questioned in connection with the in-house investigation of the "Dateline" GM crash test story are producer **Bill Wheatley**, Correspondent **Lisa Meyers**, and longtime veteran and survivor **Art Lord** who is working as a field producer in Burbank...

Betty Hudson, who has spent a decade or more as senior VP of corporate communications (network's ranking woman exedutive) has been moved out of that slot and will be an executive producer concentrating on "program development". Her old job has gone to **Judy Smith**. I am always wary about those "development" titles. I did not see the company's official blurb, but the news stories did not indicate any of Ms. Hudson's background in developing epics for the tube....

Lloyd Siegel has been named director of news partnerships -- relationships with affils and others to find more ways to add income to the net's balance sheet...

Whatever became of correspondent **Art Kent's** \$2.5-million suit vs NBC after he got fired? Kent will supposedly surface next on the Fox network as a roving reporter in a series to be entitled "Off Limits".. Kent once handed out leaflets outside 30

Rock reading "I will pursue them (NBC) in the streets, over the airways and through the legal system until they face the truth". Hmm, sounds Churchillian...

David Verdi and **Jeff Zucker** are presiding over the reorganization of the NBC News desk....

In the usual corporate language, NBC said **David Miller**, director of foreign coverage, and **Karolyn Lord**, the domestic newsgatherer, have asked for reassignment. How about program development? ?...

David McCormick, another news vet, has been named as senior producer for broadcast standards. Dave will give final approval to all investigative pieces. It is a litte late, but McCormick will also review "operating and producing policies and procedures" (Maybe, like how do you get company allegiance from a per diem hire?)...

Richard Wald, once of NBC and at ABC wants to lock the barn BEFORE the horse is stolen... ABC also announced that 500 non-union employees had accepted what it called "severance incentives" (Two weeks pay for each year of service and two weeks pay for each \$10,000 of current salary, plus extras.) ...

Terry Rhonke has lost his legal suit to get re-instated in his job. Rhonke and four other employees were bounced because of a little alleged hanky-panky - such as rigging a camera in an area where fashion models (Or was it the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders) were changing their skivvies for the "House Party" show back in 1990...

Here's a story that may be true. WNBC reporter **Magee Hickey's** mom, who lives in Manhattan, is said to have given a ming coat to a bag lady who came back the next day complaining, "It scratches." The bag-lady wondered if she could swap it for a nice cloth coat Mother Hickey might have in her wardrobe... (smells to us like a press agent concocted that one.)...

Jeff Zucker, the 27 year old whiz bang of the Today Show, will oversee "Nightly News" too. With the shows 12 hours apart they must be putting in a bed and a bath for the wunderkind. The most interesting comment we read by Zucker, who really hasn't ben in the news business too long, "I'll have a head stert since most of the ews on Nightly is on Today, and most of what's on Today os on Nightly." We're not sure if Zucker knows what a "loop" is, but it sounds like everything is going to go round and round...

And while on the subject of youth and the tube, NBC has hired 25 year old **Tabhita Soren** of MTV as a contributing correspondent for Today. Tabhita says her name comes out of the New Testament and means "Gazelle". TV Guide points out that the year she was born, (1967) there was a Tabhita personality on the tube. So was her mom checking the good book or watching a sit com while searching for a baby name?...

And **Al Roker**, the WNBC weather man, points out one positive note for overweight people like himself -- "my family always knows where they can find a shady spot --- in my shadow!"

CONCLUSION TO G.M. CRASH TEST -- cont'd from Pge. 5

In Late March, NBC's own lawyers, probing the case on both coasts, came up with the results of their investigation. We make no additional judgments, we'll just pick up some of the bits reported by the NY Times.

NBC lawyers said the crash demo was seriously flawed and suggested that budget considerations prevented the producers from performing more reliable test.

And this" It is difficult now to believe that a proposal to send a camera crew to Indiana to tape an old car being pushed along a narrow roads beside a corn field into an old truck fitted with igniters would be taken seriously."

Bob Wright, in something of a turnabout, now states, "These journalistic and administrative failures are indefensible."

As might be expected, more heard have rolled: In addition to Gartner, NBC said it has accepted the "resignations" of **Jeff Diamond**, "Dateline's" executive producer, **Dave Rummel**, a senior producer and **Robert Read**, the producer of the controversial report who strangely said, "I'm happy the NBC report vindicates the fundamental honesty of the G.M. segment" (What was he reading?) And finally **Michele Gillen**, the reporter of the segment, has managed to survive and she has been shipped off to WTVJ, the Miami affiliate.

It's Spring! Time For NBC Golf Classic!

Call:

Bobby Brown - 212:664-0408

Steve Skorupka 664-2222

John Thomas 554-5337

Peacock or Ostrich ?

By Dan Gabel

I can hear the George Gershwin music now.... da,de,da,de,da. Wintergreen for Pres-i-dent. At this writing (early March), NBC is seeking a President for News to replace Michael Gartner. And this time, says Bob Wright, the president of the Net, "TV experience would certainly be high on our list". Obviously Mr. Gartner presented a different resume when he was hired to cut costs and stop hemorrhaging. His strong suit must have been finesse in presiding over the death of the Des Moines Tribune, and the surgery on the Louisville Courier-Journal.

It is interesting to note the reason usually created to explain the departure of major figures in business -- "personal health", "want to see more of the family", "completed assignment", "never expected to stay more than five years", etc, etc. No one is ever chasrged with screwing up, despite how blatant the offense. But it is difficult to sweep the reason under the rug this time. The NY Times noted that Mr. Wright told NBC employees that the decision to quit was voluntary. However, a day earlier, said the Times, Wright was quotes as saying, "He had a crucial role in the decision". Didn't we used to call that "walking the plank?"

Some retirees who left NBC in the 50s will make their own comments about the fact that Mr. Gartner will be on some kind of payroll for the next few months so he can finish five years with the company and qualify for a pension! Golden umbrellas for the upper classes! From GE's standpoint, remember, he closed a lot of bureaus, he slashed a lot of heads off the payroll, reduced the pay of many survivors, and it's expected the News Department will show a \$20-million profit this year. If you're a stockholder, that ain't bad.

For the affiliates, he created a 24-hour news service, so that's another happy constituency. It's surprising, however, as you watch NBC stations out of town, that it is often hard to figure with which net they are affiliated. So they are not quite "proud as a peacock".

Morale? Forget it!.. Credibility? Forget it!.. Staff loyalty from per

diem workers? Forget it!...Accuracy? Forget it!

It would seem that if NBC were not the S S Titanic, Mr Gartner might still be around to oversee the fight to retain third place. But those two incidents were too much: The "Dateline" Show's faked rocket explosion of a GM truck, and then "Nightly News" use of pictures from an outside agency which showed fish purported to be dead, but which were actually only stunned for test purposes in a story about the logging industry! These were major boo-boos. Others recall Deborah Norville being swapped for Jane Pauley. Is shock more important than credibility at 30 Rock? There was a day when NBC wouldn't use a frame of a picture from an outside agency. But we all know that is an expensive way to operate. However, the alternative can and did lead to embarrassment. Take your pick.

The Wall Street Journal reported Mr. Wright told NBC employees, "The problem with the "Dateline" incident wasn't so much that it happened, but that NBC got caught". In another era, a quote like that might have meant the departure of the network boss. But even today, what kind of standard does that set?

One of the most interesting side bars in this debacle is the fact that Mr. Gartner never moved his family from Des Moines to New York. That shows faith in a longtime association. Almost seems like he was a per diem president presiding over a per diem staff. Not quite a Rock of Gibraltar image.

Now we can't feel too sorry for the departing prexy since he is part owner of nine weekly newspapers in the midwest. We wonder who checks the facts out there?

For me, the final straw in reading the NY Times report, was a quote from Mr. Gartner when asked about his accomplishments at NBC. The reply, "I am proud of the journalism". The mental picture that conjures up for me is a disgraced Richard Nixon going up the stairs of the helicopter on the White House Lawn for the last time and shooting his arms out overhead in a proud victory salute to the faithful sending him off into the blue yonder.

Today the Peacock may well be hiding its head like an ostrich!.

11

NBC BOMBED OUT !

Quickly

Returns to the Airways

By Dan Gabel

The News story for the year 1993 probably will be the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City. With its transmitter atop the 110 story tower, NBC was blasted off the air. But not for long.

C.E.O. Bob Wright congratulated the engineering staff for "professionalism, tenacity and creativity" and noted that with considerable help from other areas of the NBC/GE organization a terrific and inspiring success was achieved.

In his memo to the staff, general manager Bill Bolster described the 12 hours following the blast as an "extraordinary example of people working under pressure, imaginative thinking and the ultimate experience of the entire company pulling together".

Here are a few segments of that story:

+ CNBC provided information on contacting the tri-state cable companies, and Skypath and GR Americom immediately distributed the NBC signal by satellite to cable stations nationally.

+ WLIW, the PBS station on Long Island, phoned and offered their facility, and almost immediately NBC's signal was back on the air locally.

+ Network Ops, Traffic, and Accounting notified cable stations in the ADI to let them know the signal was available.

+ Engineering and Purchasing contacted

manufacturers in Quincy, Illinois and Gibbsboro, N.J. to secure an alternate transmitter and antenna.

+ Broadcast and network ops found a tower in Alpine, New Jersey where a transmitter could be located.

+ CNBC's Chief engineer went to the tower to check its use-ability.

+ the Advanced Technology group arranged for a temporary FCC license.

+ From Miami's WTVJ, Dick Lobo phoned and offered a spare transmitter which could be trucked to New York.

+ WBZ, Boston, offered the RF test equipment.

+ The Legal Dept. got an FCC waiver so WNBC could broadcast over WLIW.

+ Network News informed affils that its signal, with the bombing aftermath story, was available via satellite.

+ The News Channel in Charlotte, N.V. offered K-band transponder.

+ NBC Sports offered emergency power equipment. + Jim Powell of WRC-Washington, was among the personnel who flew to NY to help.

+ The bombing also knocked out the two-way radio and pager systems and the microwave receiver atop the trade center, but field crews worked miracles to establish live links between news crews in the field and the studio.

+ Bill Bolster also congratulated reporters and anchors for a great job and singled out Randy Falco and his team at Broadcast and Network Operations for planning, execution

and support.

+ In a word -- professionalism. And Peacock North offers its congratulations, too. Like old fire horses, my guess is that a lot of us would have enjoyed being part of that incredible story. Then again, we have a few good tales to remember from our own days at NBC.

SENATE HEARS GRIPES

On Retiree Health Plans

Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Relations recently held hearings to learn more about the short-changing of retirees' benefits by some American major companies.

A McDonnell Douglas Corp. engineer who spent 28 years with that company, retired at 62 and was told that his health benefits would continue for life for himself and his wife. Four months later the company announced it was ending its benefits for non-union retirees.

A spokeswoman for McDonnell Douglas said, "We reserve the right to amend, modify or terminate coverage.

A survey of 1,380 employers by the A. Foster Higgins company, a benefits firm, found that 65 percent had either revamped their retiree health care during the past two years or were planning to do so. One percent of the companies had terminated coverage for current retirees, and six percent had terminated coverage for future retirees.

Memories

Letter by Stewart MacGregory

3 February 1993

Dear Rippy —
The last PN, like all other editions was fantastic! In fact I haven't finished reading and re-reading all the news.

In Marian Eiskamp's note I was pleased to hear tell of Tom Loebl. When Sam Schiff was alive he used to stop in at NBC and fill me in about Tom. Sorry to hear of Marian's trip to the Hospital.

I go each week to St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains for therapy on my left hand which was torn up in an automobile accident in the daytime last July 28th. I was driving home from the church in BROXVILLE where I do volunteer work, when a young woman drove way over the double yellow line — I swerved to the shoulder of the road but she side-surfered me and tossed my TOYOTA into a wall (Thank goodness — otherwise I probably would have turned over..)

An off duty policeman stopped to aid me, plus a nurse from BADGER DAY CAMP and two golfers from the BONNIE BRIER COUNTRY CLUB — Then 4 Police cars — 1 Ambulance and 3 Fire Engines — They had to cut me

out of the car which was totaled.. And the driver of the other car drove off, weaving up WEAVER ST and left the scene of the accident. They never found her. Two young girls who were counselors at the BADGER Camp were following the car and only got 3 numbers of the license plate. Anyway, I'm fine and I am most thankful that the fractured ribs and the laceration up right leg and 11 stitches in my scalp. The old seat belt did not hold me too well so I was thrown into the windshield. Driving since 1932 and this was my first automobile accident!

Rippy — The pictures are marvelous! And all the stories and news dispatches of our fellow-workers (girl-workers too!)

The story by Bill Klages — great! And that was very nice of Bill to mention me in the account of the Civic Center Opera House in San Francisco. I guess that you will never forget when we came out of the Coffee Shop at the DEL WEBB TOWNE HOUSE in 1963 after the live COMO show in GLORIOUS B.Y.W. and Chet Huntley was on the TV.

describing the events in Dallas with the motorcade and the shooting of John F. Kennedy.

And the manager of the Opera House! I was to go over to the Opera House to go on a tour to write down any scratches or defacement to walls of the lobby or the apron of the stage or anything! I called him up and said under the circumstances — and as you remember we had to fly to Dallas that day. — that scratches and nicks etc. were not very important! The manager, believe it or not, allowed as how he agreed with me. I told him to send a bill to NBC if it was necessary. He never sent any bill!

With the careful way that you constructed the CONTROL Room with out even one nail — using wedges and blocks etc. — he really could not complain.

And then he spoke of CLAUDE TRAVERSE. Remember the Dem. and the Rep. CONVENTIONS of 1960? I was in LA and supposed to continue on to CHICAGO and there was only one week between conventions! I called my supervisor HUGH GRAHAM and after a

fact-finding discussion — he dispatched Claude Traverse to CHICAGO while I remained in LA and then joined Claude along with Elmer Gorry, Dan O'Connor and Jim Fox. That 1960 convention seems centuries ago. Klages sure wrote an amusing account of his transition from Video Control to Lighting Director.

Ken Arber has one story after another about the radio days. He must have started at NBC when he was 17. Ken was in that NBC Reserve Unit with Les Simon, Sam Kirschman, Scotty Connal and myself. Somehow as we approached the day to leave for Fort Riley, Kansas to train as the 406th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company, Ken got a reprieve and did not have to serve. The unit was made a part of the 301st RADIO BROADCASTING and LEAFLET GROUP. After our training we were shipped to Heidelberg, Germany for a year during the Korean Emergency in 1951. I returned to the USA in November 1952 and returned to NBC in January 1953.

3.

Then I was assigned as Unit Manager on the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE with Hudson Faussett as Producer and Gary Simpson and Jim Sheldon as two of the many Directors. Do you recall when we took the B+W mobile to Lancaster, Penna. and set up in the High School Gymnasium - rigging the place as a TV Studio - using the mobile B+W gear - and built a control room. It was a real horse opera comedy with Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healey. It was a big promotional idea for ARMSTRONG who had their HQ in Lancaster. Alan Henderson was the TD; Walter O'Meara the LD; Let's see - Bill Gortz, NOW, I'VE GONE BLANK. It was my first introduction to the country side. Jim Sheldon was the Director and Julie Light (KLAGES) was the Production Assistant. I left the space above - in order to get my old brain to recall all the names but forty years have taken away my retention for names.

I started this letter weeks ago — then put it aside and it got buried on top of the desk. I enjoy your stories and the many many fantastic photos! They really recapture the years gone by, and the many enjoyable days of "live" TV. A while back I caught a section of an Ernie Kovacs show on A & E. When the credits went by I tried to jot down some of the names. Perry Cross, Producer; Gary Shear, Director; Hugh Branigan, Unit Mgr; Jack Coffey, TD; Bill Knight, LD; Henry Gerling, Audio; Bill Wendell, announcer. Kovacs was an amazing entertainer. Have also seen Rick Kelly in two more stage presentations. As the Sheriff in "FRONT PAGE" and as the Theatrical Producer in "Send me a Tenor". Rick has a great talent for playing these character parts and he really does an amazing delineation of the character he portrays. I also attended a Retired Mens

4.

Club meeting in White Plains where Rick was the guest speaker. He gave a most interesting talk on his over 40 odd years at NBC and RCA when he was a Unit Manager, The Head of the Casting Department, his work with Robert Garmoff and his years with Dave Tebet. It was most informative and very amusing. I think that I had better send this along — for it soon will be APRIL. All the Peacock North members write such interesting things — and the pictures! — and the memories! — Thanks Rippy for doing such a splendid job! And the work of the REDMOND PRESS should be noted! What an excellent job. Take good care. I'll always treasure my days of working with you and your gang of wonderful workers. Betts joins me in sending our best! Stewart

A good many of the programs that I've been associate with, Stewart, happily for me, was the Unit Manager. Most memorable of which was the Perry Como Series of live hours in different cities of the U.S. Stewart always had a story or anecdote, whether we were just starting, or at 3 am driving home in a pouring rain. We stopped to let the rain abate, then after a short while we both decided to get going again even tho we only could navigate by hugging the center line, fearful of being robbed on the Van Wyck Expressway - then the car had difficulty starting. Even tho the letter is for me, many of you were there in the episodes mentioned, and should also share in the enjoyment. My life was enriched by this man's great sense of humor. (H.)

New P.N. Members

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| HAL ALEXANDER | - Woodland Hills, Ca. |
| JOHN BEHRENDT | - N. Bellmore, N.Y. |
| CALVIN BROADHEAD | - Englewood, N.J. |
| DOUGLAS DAVENPORT | - New York, N.Y. |
| SIDNEY DAVIDSON | - Aurora, Colorado |
| JOHN DIEHLMAN | - Copiague, N.Y. |
| PAT DONEGAN | - New York, N.Y. |
| JEAN FITZPATRICK | - Bergenfield, N.J. |
| HARRY FLEETWOOD | - New York, N.Y. |
| ROBERT HILL | - Port Richey, Fl. |
| BERNICE JAFFE | - Forest Hills, N.Y. |
| KEN KEEFER | - New York, N.Y. |
| AAVO KOIV | - New York, N.Y. |
| EDMUND LEDDY Jr. | - Brovard, N.C. |
| SCOTT McCARTNEY | - Palm Springs, Ca. |
| ROBERT McEWAN | - Staten Island, N.Y. |
| TONY RIVERA | - Bayside, N.Y. |
| TOM SABOL | - Livingston, N.J. |
| DORIS ANN SCHARFENBERG | - Fort Worth, Texas |
| WILLIAM SCHNEIDER | - Aquebogue, N.Y. |

WELCOME TO P.N., FOLKS!
Come to the Luncheon on May 23!

Peacock North Newsletter
is printed at

Redmond Press

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



Last Year at Piccolissimo
Even Peacock No. Got a Birthday cake



Same day, Peter celebrated his retiring.
Peter Peterson, Dan Grabel & Heino Ripp



Most of the P.N. - 5th Year celebrants



The Ladies of P.N. (those guys back are ours too)



Don Mulvaney with his PCP 90
(contacting a UFO)



Jim Marshall, Clay Ackerson & "Bobo" Bartinik
(during leisure time at a remote; from motel
to truck) foto from Clay Ackerson

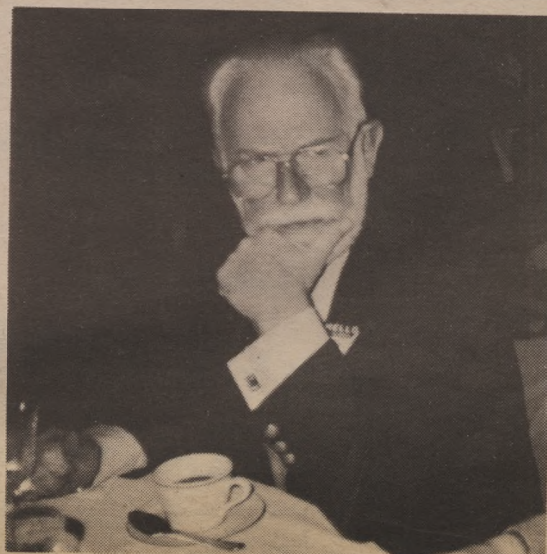
QUIZ TIME with Dick Dudley

(Editor: Dick the Squire of Willow Street, Pa. -- honest, that's the name of the town! -- again tests our knowledge of oldies. He was once the announcer on a quiz show called "Who Said That?")

Let's take another stroll down Memory Lane and test your recall of some broadcasting "staalwarts". See if you can match the quote with the creator!

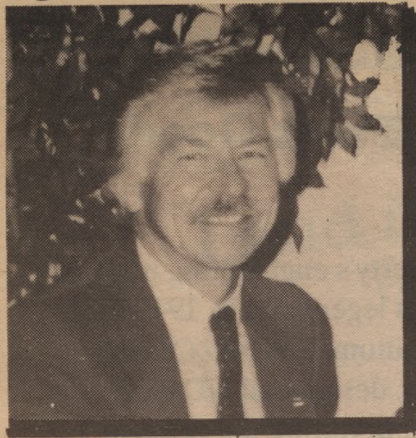
1. "Is ev-ree-body happy?"
2. "Everybody wants to get inta d'act."
3. "Thank You, Don Pardo."
4. " Yow-zza, yow-zza".
5. "T'aint funny."

(See page 19. for answers)



a "Rodin" pose from Dick Swicker at a PN bash.

Heino Steps Down as Publisher



After having put together the Newsletter for these past few years, and having spent over 50 years at TV, I have decided that from now on, I should use my time only for myself.

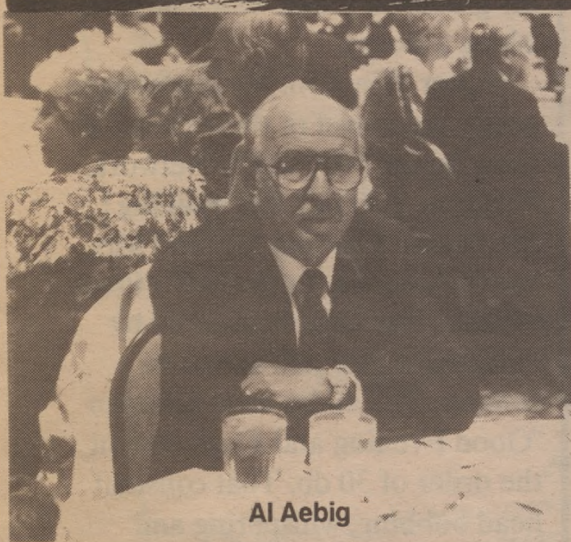
While working, too many of my personal wishes were constantly vetoed by schedules. Doing the Newsletter, a good part of a month goes into it. There are virtually no helpers, Using the computers & programs I have, (even tho relatively new) causes endless hours of cutting and pasting and sizing etc./on and on. The paper doesn't come out by just turning on a computer.

This Newsletter will be my last issue

I am proud of the paper, and want to thank the ones who have provided photos and material, and have helped. Paying your dues, has created the Newsletter we have today.

Peacock North will flourish, and I can spend my time, doing some of the things one retires for... Bless you all !

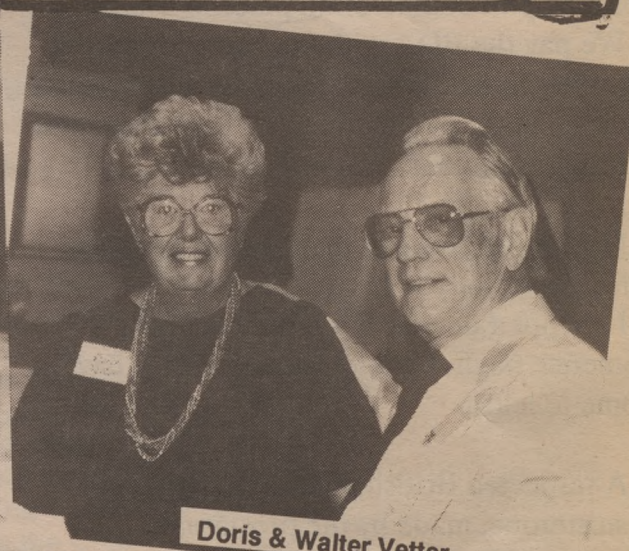
Heino



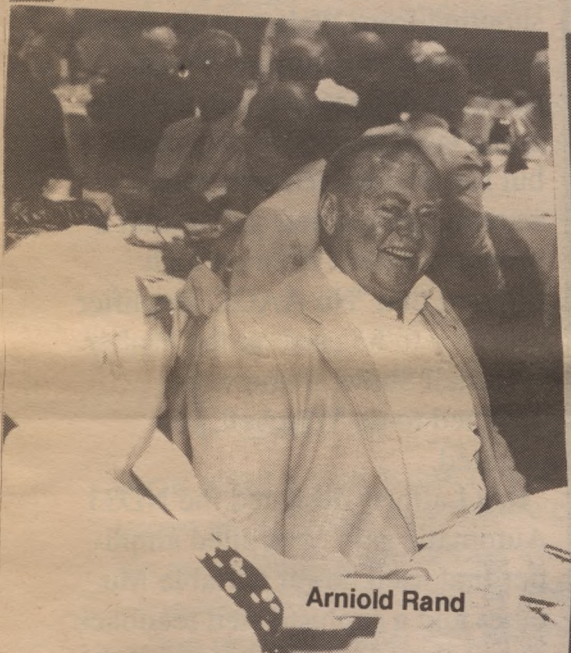
Al Aebig



Joan & Frank Merklein



Doris & Walter Vetter



Arniold Rand



Sen Louie, Jerry Valdivia, Corey Leible,
Al Rice, Walt Werner (Where's Melanson?)



Don Pike



A familiar face
& Lee Carlton



Harry Musselman & a lovely lady fg.
- Hey Tamby, turn around!



Art Krohn fm Calif.



The white haired fellow left, is Hank Folkerts



Lew & Dot Halpern

Florida Spring Bash fotos

Fotos by Gene Martin

16. Prostate Problems ?

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH !

BUT No Thanks to the F.D.A.

By Heino Ripp

Seems as tho I read more and more about the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) that is unsavory and detrimental to my health.

For example, Doctors all carry a book entitled "The Physician's Desk Reference". An example from it gives a warning that "Diabeta", used by the establishment to lower blood sugar in type-2 adult onset diabetes, is associated with an increased risk of fatal heart attack!!! (based upon double-blind placebo trials.)

We pay the FDA with our taxes for putting our lives in that kind of jeopardy when we use a drug that's OK'd by them!! - **Talk about side effects!..** And that's just one example.....

Now in reference to the Prostate problem, which many of you have experienced.

I am not a doctor, but it seemed like someone might be interested in what I have come to learn.

A respected British medical journal says testosterone, made by the prostate, is beneficial; The damaging element is called *dihydro-testosterone*, which is caused by an enzyme, called "*testosterone 5-alpha reductase*", an enzyme that changes beneficial testosterone into the sinister product, *dihydro-testosterone* which can cause the cancers.

Natural healer folk have been using the extract from the *Saw Palmetto Berry* for years and years. (from Palm trees). The extract reduces the enlarged prostate size, and the symptoms one usually encounters. Also blocks testosterone being changed to the bad stuff, and inhibits the bad stuff, which begins to happen in the forties.

France has had it on the market for 10 years plus. The European community has been using herbal medicines for generations. In the U.S. the "Drug Industry" historically has rejected herbal and nutritional therapies, (however some are starting to be recognized as beneficial). **The Industry's lobbying practices have taken over control of the F.D.A.!**

Nutritional Doc's can give shots of (*testosterone cyprionate or enanthanate*) to maintain one's level of helpful testosterone.

Ted Seiter formerly in the Electronic Maintenance Dept, now living in the Bahamas, sent me an article by a Bahamian Doctor **Michael Ingraham**. His article tells about how

Merck, the drug Co. has taken the key ingredient, Saw Palmetto Berry extract, added some things and named it "PROSCAR", and it was endorsed by the FDA... Hooray for the FDA ?? -- Well--

The catch is that the FDA is now going around removing the Extract from Health Food shelves!.. **How come suddenly it has become a viable "drug" under the Merck label, but unacceptable under its old Berry name????**

Proscar sells at an exorbitant three times the price and Ingraham finds it less effective than the plain Berry extract.

Now one has to bring in an expensive orthodox-medicine-physician, who now will give you the *privilege* of buying a naturally growing herb from a drug store, the cost of which has tripled due to the druggies commandeering the berry market.

Proscar is predicted to generate one Billion dollars annually.

Dr. Ingraham said, "The FDA owes the American public an explanation as to why it approved Proscar, while rejecting a natural treatment which is less expensive and probably safer and more effective".

Another example of another FDA outrage. They sent a "Swat Team" into an herbal store out west. (Idaho, I believe). The owner invited them in peacefully, but the team chose to smash the unlocked door and scooped up products on their list, and did much damage to the store... I don't remember electing an FDA.. Who gave them the right to ransack & loot innocent storekeepers? Whose interests is the FDA serving???

It becomes painfully obvious that the people have lost control of the government and our well-ness to the Drug Lobbyists..

I have called my senators and representative in Congress. was received courteously, but seriously doubt it will make a great stir in Washington. I hear that Senator Edward Kennedy is pushing very hard to pass a law that will make dispensing of all "Vitamins and Minerals etc. possible, **only by prescription.** (He says nothing about teaching the orthodox doctors about nutrition. Might as well have the newsboy write the prescriptions, probably knows more.)

One used to be able to buy "Prostade", put out by Enzymatic Therapy Co.. No longer. The FDA has ordered it off the shelves. Don't tell anyone, but my Health food store has the extract liquid, put out by Herb Pharm. Williams, Oregon... **Here's to your health!**

LATE ADDENDUM TO "HEALTH"

Went to the Health Food Store yesterday, and lo and behold there on the shelves where Enzymatic Therapy's "Prost-Ade" usually was stored, there was something called **Saw Palmetto Complex**. Upon closer scrutiny, the contents were the same as Prost-Ade. The FDA and their lobbyists apparently were fearful the old name might give someone a clue that it was an aid to Prostate problems ? So to prevent anyone from thinking that, the name had to be changed! Too close to Proscar ???? Call it what you might, it still works.

Perhaps Clinton should look into some budget cuts for the FDA!

More HEALTH Pge 27.

Joe Sturniolo -

Scared Kid

Feels Good

Ray Lafferty's engineering prowess at NBC is legendary. In 1949 NBC had an Automatic Gain Control amplifies, designated ND49. It worked, but during the recovery time between peaks, it made a sound that approximates the noise my grandson makes when he's finishing a slurpy.

Walter Winchell, the preeminent gossip columnist of that era had a show on the NBC RED Network, Friday at 9:30 pm. His opening line "Good Evening Mr. and Mrs. North America, Let's Go To Press - Flash", was eagerly awaited by millions of listeners across the country. The audio level between "Good Evening and Flash was on the order of 30 db. That constant head bobbing, whispering and shouting from Walter made for an audio man's nightmare. To get some semblance of control to the audio level the ND49 was tried, but for obvious reasons, found wanting. It sounded so bad that a pronouncement from on high ordered that "No AAGC amplifier was ever to be used on the Walter Winchell Show! If you were assigned to do Winchell, you sweated.

Ray Lafferty designed the ND33 Automatic gain controlled amplifier that used newer variable Mu tubes and a sophisticated feedback circuit that eliminated many of the problems of the old ND49. It was a kinder and gentler amplifier, so to speak. The perfect spot for this amp was the Winchel Show, but because of the politics of the day, it could not be used.

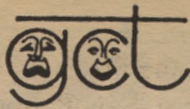
I was doing vacation relief at the time and as luck would have it, assigned to The Winchel Show - and I was petrified! If ever an audio man needed an amplifier, I needed that ND 33. I also needed allies, confidants who could keep a secret. I enlisted Art Holub, senior transmission engineer and Any Wadel, the transmission engineer on duty at the time. They patched me the ND33 and I packed more audio into that program had ever had before. Every peak a Zero and no valley less than a minus 5.. It was perfection

Well, here it is forty years later; I want to thank Ray for the ND33. In the overall scheme of things and in the light of Computers, Palm-corders and Satellite transmissions it might not sound like such a big deal, but it sure made a scared kid feel pretty good back then....

Join The Gabfest with NBC Hams

on 14.223 MHz - 9:45 Eastern, Weekdays

Stewart MacGregory went to the theater and enjoyed the play featuring a longtime co-worker, Rick Kelly. He enjoyed it immensely and sent me the playbill. Thought you too might enjoy sharing portions of it.



The Greenville Community Theater presents

Lend Me A Tenor

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Bruce Bloom

Cast

MAX	John Thomas
MAGGIE	Laura Cotliar
SAUNDERS	Rick Kelly
TITO	Tony Herbert
MARIA	JoAnn Marone
BELLHOP	Bill Boylan
DIANA	Nancy Smith
JULIA	Lois Alterman

Place:

An elegant suite in a first-rate hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, 1934.

Act I

Scene 1: Early afternoon on a Saturday in September.
Scene 2: Four hours later.

Act II

Scene 1: That night, about 11 o'clock.
Scene 2: Fifteen minutes later.

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Produced by special permission of Samuel French, Inc.

And be sure to tell them you saw the ad in our program.

RICK KELLY was a unit manager (and other titles) for many years at 30 Rock. How many of you-all couldn't wait to retire to do something special that you've always dreamed of doing??? - me too! But Rick Kelly is doing it!

The graphics and text tell it all. Keep up the good work Rick. (I hear you took lessons from Sid Caesar and Mel Brooks...)

Directed by Bruce Bloom

Friday, November 13, 1992
Saturday, November 14, 1992
Friday, November 20, 1992
Saturday, November 21, 1992
8:30 pm

Edgemont High School Auditorium
Scarsdale, New York

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Tony Herbert (Tito). Tony has played a ("Witness tion"), se WASPS ("a low-class And Other gal Italian The Bridge ("Night Of other inte dozen GC He has d Royal Far Tables," ar acted in n Spelvin A has serve Directors backstag Manager a

Rick Kelly (Henry). After a long acting hiatus, Rick joined GCT last year, appearing in "On Golden Pond" as Norman Thayer. Next, Rick played the befuddled Sheriff Hartman in last autumn's production of "The Front Page." He served on the Sound Crew backstage for "Rumors," performing as the Telephone Ring and the Door Bell. He made his GCT debut in the workshop, "A Need For Brussels Sprouts," and subsequently directed

"The Happy Journey From Trenton To Camden" by Thornton Wilder. Rick has been on the Playreading Committee and is currently on the Board as head of Ways and Means.

★ ★ ★

Rick Kelly long acting GCT last "On Golde Thayer. N befuddled last autur "The Front Page." He served on the Sound Crew backstage says she's thrilled to be play- ing Maria because, "I shall

WUNDERKIND

by Dan Grabel

(Newsweek did a profile on Jeff Zucker, NBC's current wunderkind, and we have excerpted generously from it since Peacock Northers should be familiar with the people who are trying to make the net number one again).

Describing a glitch in the Today show one morning when the Teleprompter went awry, Newsweek recalled the incident this way: "Zucker responds as if it is a total breakdown. His hands flail. His balding head convulses. His eyes bulge behind the wire rims. He leaps from his seat, "What the f--- just happened, he screams in near hysteria."

Sounds like a nice quiet morning in the control room, and probably a taste of life there under Steve Friedman, the previous occupant of the Executive Producer title. (Steve, who vowed to bury the opposition to Nightly News, but didn't, has moved along to producing NBC's next magazine show. That will be number 15 or 16, If we recall all the debacles of mag shows at NBC. We ought to have a contest to see who remembers the titles). But back to young Mr. Zucker.

We should mention here that the 27 year old wiz improved the Today show ratings by 13 percent in 1992. He broke into TV while at Harvard by working a summer at ABC sports. During NBC's 1988 Olympic coverage he was a researcher and Jane Pauley thought he was tremendous and got him hired at Today. At Harvard he wrote the sports column for the Crimson, was later elected the paper's president, and one friend described him as "staggeringly competent".

Zucker, says Newsweek, once said, "There's something about television that's very sexy and infectious." (Ed note: During 40+ years in the business, I never found tv as sexy. But Zucker is a bachelor. Perhaps he has another viewpoint.)

So much for the plus side. Newsweek also captured these comments, un-attributed (hey, jobs are tough enough to hold without slamming the boss in public.): Although he is respected by his peers at NBC, many criticize him for his short fuse and as abrasive, belittling manner." --- "He's got some growing up to do". -- "Putting Zucker in charge of Today and Nightly News simultaneously tells people that there's only one person in the building capable of producing either show".

Zucker on Zucker: "I'm a perfectionist." --- I want people to know that they made a mistake." --- "I'm going to put more spontaneity, energy and fun in Nightly News." -- in short, make it more like Today...

*You Are Cordially Invited To Join Peacock North
See Last Page For Application*

Memories

NBC Television Station WNBC RATES

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1941

TRANSMISSION
RATE

GROSS

6:00 PM to 11:00 PM Daily
8:00 AM to 12 Noon Daily
12 Noon to 6:00 PM Daily, exclusive
of Saturday and Sunday
12 Noon to 6:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday
11:00 PM to Sign Off Daily

60 Min.	30 Min.	15 Min.
\$120.00	\$60.00	\$30.00
60.00	30.00	15.00
60.00	30.00	15.00
90.00	45.00	22.50
90.00	45.00	22.50

{ Rates for other units of time in exact proportion to corresponding one-hour rate. No periods less than 5 minutes sold except for Service Spots.

SERVICE SPOTS (News, Weather, Time, Etc.)

Evening (6:00 PM to Sign Off)—\$8.00 for maximum of 1 minute.
Day (8:00 AM to 6:00 PM) —\$4.00 for maximum of 1 minute.

TYPE OF FACILITIES (Based on time on the air to nearest 5 minutes.)

	60 Min.	30 Min.	15 Min.	10 Min.	5 Min.
Main Studio	\$150.00	\$90.00	\$60.00	\$53.00	\$45.00
Small Studio	75.00	45.00	30.00	26.00	22.00
Film Studio	75.00	45.00	30.00	26.00	22.00
Field Pickups	75.00	(Minimum Charge—\$75.00)			

{ Rates for units of time longer than one hour in exact proportion to corresponding one-hour rate.

Service Spots—Facilities and Handling—\$5.00 per spot.
(Must originate in small or film studio.)

FACILITIES FURNISHED FOR ABOVE CHARGES

MAIN STUDIO

- Standard Equipment — 3 cameras; necessary audio facilities.
- Personnel — complete engineering staff; production director and his aids.
- Rehearsal Time — 1 hour with cameras for each 15 minutes on the air. Rehearsal studio without cameras and personnel provided when necessary and available.
- Additional Rehearsal Time With Cameras — Each 15 minutes or fraction thereof—\$12.50.
- Additional Equipment — Turntable facilities for auxiliary sound—\$5.00 per unit. For additional cameras—charges will be announced when cameras are available.

SMALL STUDIO

- Standard Equipment — 1 camera—necessary audio facilities—turntable facilities for auxiliary sound.
- Personnel — complete engineering staff; production director and his aids.
- Rehearsal Time — 1 hour with cameras for each 15 minutes on the air. Rehearsal studio without cameras and personnel provided when necessary and available.
- Additional Rehearsal Time With Cameras — Each 15 minutes or fraction thereof—\$5.00.

FILM STUDIO

- Standard Equipment — facilities to handle continuous shows—both 16mm. and 35mm. silent or sound film—slide and caption projectors—turntable facilities for auxiliary sound.
- Personnel — complete engineering staff; production director and his aids.
- Rehearsal Time and Preview — 1 hour with equipment for each 15 minutes on the air.
- Additional Rehearsal Time — Each 15 minutes or fraction thereof—\$5.00.

FIELD PICKUPS

- Standard Equipment — 2 cameras—2 microphone positions.
- Personnel — complete engineering staff; production director and his aids.
- Wire-lines — extra charge to be made based on point of origination.
- Additional Equipment — additional microphone positions—\$5.00.
—For additional cameras—charges will be announced when cameras are available.

MAIN AND SMALL STUDIO

All talent, announcers, effects men, musicians, and music and script rights—at NBC quoted production costs.

No charge for one setting available from NBC's current supply. (A setting shall consist of not more than seven 4' x 10' flats, and shall include the ordinary props and stage dressings on hand).

No charge on normal set-up and striking of sets. (If striking is required during show, add 10% to program facilities charge).

Additional Charges:

- (a) Special or additional sets constructed at the rate of \$30.00 per set, and they become the property of NBC. Any special sets constructed will be held for the duration of a contract and will be made available at no charge for subsequent use.
- (b) Charges will be made to cover the rental or purchase of properties, costumes, and stage dressings not in stock.
- (c) Charges will be made for all extra art work and construction work at NBC's quoted prices.

FIELD PICKUP UNITS

{ All talent, props, musicians, rights, and miscellaneous items—at NBC quoted production costs.

JAMES F. X. MULLEN, formerly an NBC Sales & Promotion Supervisor, having started in 1951, searching through his archives, came up with the material on this page.

First of all, on the left is a copy of the NBC July 1, 1941 T.V. Rate card. Compare these with the Super Bowl rates of this past January.

Jim notes : How about the Service Spot section: Evening (6pm to signoff) - \$8.00 for a maximum of 1 minute; Day 8am to 6pm - \$4.00 for the minute!



Know what this is? ?

It's a "telop". These WNBC telops were used for station breaks, and wherever slides were needed. Jim reminds us that glass slides and videotape was still a dream, not to mention Chyrons, for they weren't due to emerge as technical breakthroughs for many years.



Eddie Cantor



Jack Benny Mary Livingstone

For you radio buffs, Jim sends us these photos of the Golden Oldie Microphones, effectively used to achieve nationwide stardom for a trio of young comics pictured.

Eddie Cantor, Jack Benny and Mary Livingstone (I was a cameraman on Eddie Cantor's first TV appearance was from studio 3H, when a NEW coaxial cable to Philadelphia, and NBC celebrated Big Radio Star Cantor's TV Debut.) (Hey Announcer folk, remember the 5F announce booth, complete with this type of mike, circa 1944/5, and it was many years before NBC decided to go modern and dump those old boxes.)

Golden Oldies

PROGRAM
FACILITIES
RATE

PROGRAM
PRODUCTION
CHARGES

We Get Letters !

19

2429 Ecuadorian Way #41 - Clearwater, FL 34623

Dear Pete:

Thank you for reminding me that I had not sent in my dues for 1993. I really don't want to miss one issue of PEACOCK NORTH.

Things are going well with me. I am now living in a retirement community of some 9,000 residents called "TOP OF THE WORLD". I really love it and have made many friends.

Haven't gotten into golf as yet but do play bridge and tennis. Do a little traveling each year. I usually go to Vegas once a year. Was in the Big Apple last year and got to see a few of the folks. Next trip is to Branson, Mo. May.

I must say that you guys are doing a first class job up there. The PEACOCK NORTH newspaper is first class all the way and tip my hat to Heino. I look forward to each issue.

I guess some of you will be coming down to Orlando in March to visit with your southern relatives. I won't be there this year as I have visitors during that week. Certainly bad timing. I have only missed one.

We have had the best winter in this area since I have been here. Beach weather everyday. The tourist really got their money's worth this year down here.

I hear from some of the northerners from time to time. Namely, Fred Wagner, John Oszewski, George Kiyak, Bob Juncosa and Ron Bruno still at NBC. And, of course, during the Christmas Holidays I receive cards from quite a few. But, all in all, it's your newspaper that really keeps us informed.

Please note that I do have a new address. It is at the top of this letter. Make sure it get into your computer.

Guess I have bored you long enough for this time. Thanks again for reminding me of my error and I promise it won't happen again. Say hello to Ripp and the others you work with at PN. Hope this finds you in good health.

Sincerely,

Baldy

Walter Balderson

ANSWERS TO: DUDLEY'S OLD TIME QUIZ

1. Bandleader Ted Lewis
2. Jimmy Durante
3. Art Fleming on the Original "Jeopardy"
4. Bandleader Ben Bernie
5. Molly on Fibber McGee and Molly

It's Spring! Time For NBC Golf Classic!

Well, if you are being awakened in the mornings by the sun streaming through the window, and realize that it's still light after six - That means just one thing. It's time for the

NBC GOLF CLASSIC !

Steve Skorupka, Bobby Brown and John Thomas announce that On Tuesday, June 1st, 1993 you are invited to tee off at the SPOOK ROCK COUNTRY CLUB in Suffern, New York. Cost is \$95., a deposit of \$50 in by May 15. Guests welcome, raffle, trophies etc. Included is breakfast, 1 hour wine-beer Buffet, Dinner at the Chalet. (I hope I put the commas in the right place). Want more info ?

Call:

Bobby Brown - 212:664-0408
Steve Skorupka 664-2222
John Thomas 554-5337

The Way We Were

By Roy Neal

Greetings from the rolling green hills of the old north state, North Carolina.

I’ve been asked (had my arm twisted by Pete and Rippie and Dan) to reminisce about the once great days of NBC when all of were pioneers and enjoying every minute of it. So, here are a few of my memories of the Way We Were in the days of pioneering television, NBC Style.

In 1952, I went to Hollywood to set up a newsroom for the network. In addition to the network news, we were to service KNBH (Now KNBC), the O&O managed by Tom McFadden. Our territory was the western states, including Alaska and Hawaii, plus the war in Korea. Film from the war was edited in California to save 11 hours flying time to New York. That was the first year when ATT&T opened its first transcontinental service coast to coast. We covered atom bombs, being tested in the Nevada desert, The Parade of Roses (in glorious black and white) and experimented with the techniques of remotes with Wide Wide World, the brain child of Pat Weaver and Barry Wood. What a combination! Bill McAndrew ran news, Barry was in charge of special events and Weaver ran the network. In those formative years, General Sarnoff was pushing color TV, and we were in the middle of it.

We were ordered to colorize our news film.

Column D.

sure he was not a communist! As it turned out, this was to be the coming of age of the NBC team. For the next several years we would have ratings that rivalled even the entertainment shows. To set up his coverage, Reuven made a masterful decision. We would tape the output of the mobile units all day, edit and go on the air one hour before the competition with a review of the day’s events to lead into the evening coverage. It worked. Our ratings were higher than both CBS and ABC put together. And along with Huntley and Brinkley, video tape was here to stay, as a main staple pf television news.

During the same time frame, there were other major pioneering events. From covering nuclear weapons being tested in Nevada, I moved to Cape Canaveral, Florida, to report the early days of the United States Space program.

In 1955, the Air Force had set up a secret group. The Western Development Division was headquartered in what had been a parochial school, near the Los Angeles Airport. A young General, Bernard Schriever, had assembled a brilliant group of military and civilian engineers. They were developing Ballistic Missiles.

In Huntsville, Alabama, an import from Germany, Werner Von Braun, headed a similar team for the Army. General John Medaris was in command at the Redstone

Column B.

Since I was in Hollywood, we were assigned to figure out ways to colorize. We found more sensitive, higher speed film stock from Ektachrome, when our regular supplier, Kodak, said it was impossible. We found ways of putting magnetic striping on our 16MM Newsfilm for the sound track. For years, Bill McAndrew had a freeze frame in his office of one of our stories, an atom bomb test in color.

Pioneering was what we lived for. I remember the day I figured out that if we cut film with an A roll and a B roll, we could play them both and DISSOLVE from one to the other. Proudly we fed our first story into New York for the Camel News Caravan. Reuven Frank called right after the show to say we learned fast. Turns out he had done an identical dissolve from New York the day before! But I hadn’t seen the story! Incidentally, at that time he was the writer of the show.

The West coast was a repeat network, so recording television was very much on our minds. Kinescopes were poor, at best. In time, when video tape came in, we dreamed of a way of logging material by zeroing a stop watch at the start of a tape reel, then marking stop watch timed into the tape. It was an offshoot of radio techniques and of course was the key to all video editing even to this day. But we did it first, in an era before the tape machines had foot counters

Column C.

and when moist editing was done with a razor and a microscope, cutting tape physically, like film, - because we didn’t know how to do it electronically.

And it paid off magnificently. In 1959, working in conjunction with the Air Force Association and sponsored by General Motors, we put the first video tape mobile unit on the road. I produced The World Congress of Flight, in Las Vegas. It was the biggest air show ever staged in the United States. It was also the first show in the then new Vegas Convention Hall. Our mobile unit was a moving van in which we installed a couple of huge old Ampex tape machines and a lot of air conditioning. We fed all material, including a dramatic array of air to ground video, into the van, edited and played it back with live leads for airing. Bob Considine emceed. And the reviews were great.

Soon after, Reuven Frank enlisted the Los Angeles news gang to work on the 1960 conventions. The democrats were first, in Los Angeles. Bill McAndrew gave approval to use Burbank’s tape room, saying he couldn’t understand why we weren’t satisfied to stay with the kinescopes. At that time, Chet Huntley and David Brinkley had spent four years on the air, developing heir unique style. Huntley, by the way, had joined the network in Los Angeles. When he was signed, we even ran a security check to make

Column E.

Arsenal.. The common meeting ground was Cape Canaveral, the launch site for rockets then as it is now.

The Generals wanted the public to know what they were doing. The missiles were huge. They couldn’t be hidden when they were launched. But the Pentagon refused to accept that fact.

The Commanding General of the Eastern Test Range, Donald N. Yates, agreed with us. With his help, plus information provided by the Air Force and the Army programs, we (NBC) set out to show the world what was going on. When I first arrived at Cocoa Beach, the nearest town to the Cape, I remember a clandestine briefing on the beach one midnight, so that I any my camera crew could figure out in which direction to point the cameras! At that time, there were only two professional crews on the beach, ours and Life-Time.

We were told how to spot an upcoming launch.. For example, with Atlas missiles there are LOX vent valves. The device remains open to allow Liquid Oxygen gasses to escape. The super cold stuff creates a white cloud, like a steamy breath on a cold day. Just before launch, the vents were closed, to build up pressure inside the rocket. To an observer, when the white

Column F.

steam stopped venting, it was time to turn on the cameras.

We began coverage with an Atlas launch. It was in June and the big rocket lifted off slowly. After about a minute into the flight, range safety detonated the bird as it began to stray off course. The force of the detonation and fireball reminded me of the small nuclear bombs I had seen so many times in Nevada. Reuven had me fly into New York with the footage. We put a short story on TODAY and a major report on the Huntley Brinkley Show that night. At Reuven’s instigation, Bill McAndrew came to the editing room to preview our footage. On the spot he made a big decision. Space was to be a major item for coverage by NBC News. To find the money, Reuven Frank would use the Chet Huntley Reporting show budget and that show would be a showcase for us. We would go into the field big time!

Jim Kitchell came down from New York. He rented a house, the closest residence to the Cape at Port Canaveral, then went back to the big city. I can see Tom Priestly and Cy Avnet and many more camera crews building camera tie-downs on the beach and Herb Kaplow (who joined me in reporting so we could service both TV & radio networks) working one of the field telephones set up on a high and windy platform. Frank McGee joined us frequently. The network was grooming Frank to be an anchor and this was

Cont'd from Pge 20, Column G.
part of his training.

One of the neighbors at Port Canaveral named Luli, had other plans for our house. He wanted the land to build a tank farm for the seaport. He started a campaign among the neighbors, telling them that if we were allowed to keep on our nefarious coverage, the Air Force might take their launch site to the west coast! And one evening, after shooting all day, Priestly and I came home to find that Mr. Luli had bulldozed the entrance to our place. We got a bulldozer and dozed our way back in. And the next day went before a judge to get a restraining order. General Yates called a town meeting, in which he told the neighbors that we were really nice people who were friends of the Air Force!

So we stayed. In 1958, the Russians flew Sputnik. President Eisenhower said, "we have a satellite too.. and we're gonna launch it in December!".. The Navy was in charge of the Vanguard program. They had designed a sophisticated race horse of a vehicle but were at least a year away from launch readiness. But the President had said go.. and they went, in full view of the media of the world who had flown in for the event. And they blew up the vanguard on the launch pad. That night I reported... "The grapefruit sized Vanguard survived the explosion and is working. At an altitude of 3 feet instead of two hundred miles."

Column J.

Mutual Radio Network calling to say "thank you for forcing us into joining you." And Reuven, who called to say the NBC news that night was going to be just one story. Ours!

Gus Grissom flew the next suborbital flight. Then it was time for John Glenn to go into orbit. I and Red Mueller anchored. And in the pioneering vein, we had been given an experimental video tape recorder built by Ampex. They called it the Slant Track. It was small enough to be mounted in the trunk of a compact convertible. We also used two hose reels... one to hold a hundred feet of camera and mike cable, the other to plug into the nearest AC outlet.

Immediately after Glenn flew out of sight, I went down to the launch pad with the unit. We shot the streams of water deluging the smoking pad and went into launch control to show the engineers cheering wildly. Then we drove back up the press site and scored a clean beat over the competition. On that mission. our ratings were higher than CBS and ABC combined.

And that's the way we were, once upon a time, thirty something years ago.

SEND IN YOUR LaMAGANETTE
RESERVATION TODAY!

Column H.

The Vanguard flight was notable in that for the first time the military provided count down information on a loudspeaker..But they still weren't ready to let us cover from the Cape. We worked on the beach!

However, after that fiery fiasco the doors opened. Von Braun was given a go ahead to try his army satellite. His rockets had been tested in Nazi Germany, as V-2s, and their systems adapted to make a Redstone missile. An adapted version would later be used to fly Alan Shepard on the first manned mission. Explorer 1 lifted right on time and went into orbit. And so did we, because we had covered from the launch site for the first time. The doors were opening. And that night the NBC network stayed up until 2 in the morning, while I flew to Jacksonville so that we could be the first on the air with that history making event.

In 1959, a new Federal agency, NASA, named seven astronauts and the Space Task Group was formed to put a man into space. In 1960, they wee getting ready to fly Alan Shepard. I was named Pool Producer and Jim Kitchell the Director. We were to develop an all new way of distributing news on a pooled basis.

After making our first survey, we met with Julian Goodman, at that time Exec. VP of News. Our cost estimate to build a mobile unit came in at \$1 million. That was real

Column "I".

21.

money but Julian didn't even blink. "When you meet with the other nets," he said, "tell them NBC is willing to go it alone, if they don't join the pool!"

And he meant it. Needless to say, the other nets agreed to the pool and we were into our first major space coverage. While we were getting ready, NASA scheduled an Atlas test a few days before Shepard was to take off in his Mercury Redstone. We decided to give our cameramen a chance to track a rocket by taping the test.

The rocket strayed off course. Range safety blew it, directly over our camera site at the Cape. And we were treated to the sight of flaming debris falling into our cameras. We taped it all and made a fine spot for the net newscasts that evening. But NASA engineers heard that we had the coverage and requested permission to screen it, looking for analysis of what had gone wrong. We must have played that tape at least a hundred times. And within weeks, NASA bought cameras and tape machines and went into the video systems that were to give us such amazing coverage in later years. So we can claim that we taught NASA how to use television.

The Shepard flight was a resounding success. I remember Don Hewitt, roaring out of the CBS truck to scream "This is the best damn pool we ever had." And the President of the

Memories



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GEORGE NEWELL, (A.D/Dir)
recently returned from Fla. after
setting a UHF TV station to air.
Longtime musical arranger, orch
leader, piano player, drummer et
al: has been making music a
career. As the cards indicate, if
you are longing to hear the sounds
of the Bands named from your era,
write to George for future playing
dates. (Those discounts were for
these previous concerts, I don't
know if that follows or not).
Anyway if you like to hear live
music again that is not eardrum
smashing rock guitar sounds, but
melodies, harmony, lyrics, and
sounds of the 40/50's, this is for
you. (Heino)

IVAN

The Terrible

By Marian Eiskamp

It was my first booking for "TODAY". Now you always remember the first of anything - but this was a first that no one forgot.

"Tie-dying" was in, and the producer of TODAY wanted to do a feature about it. I was given the name on Ivan (no last name, please) who lived in Greenwich village and had made quite a name for himself with this skill. All I had to do was find out if he was articulate and could demonstrate tie-dying in the allotted time on air. Simple.

Off I go to the village where I found Ivan waiting for me with kettle steaming. I told him what we wanted and Ivan assured me he could do anything. I was a believer and booked Ivan.

Two days before the air date I began to have serious doubts - I called Ivan with rehearsal times only to learn from his roommate that Ivan was on the West Coast gathering water from the pacific. I said - why? I've got water in New York. Oh no - that would never do - what was wrong with me. It seems Ivan was into a spiritual thing (which apparently I was not) and needed water from five different sources. I didn't ask for an explanation because I became hysterical. Roommate said Ivan planned Lake Michigan for his next port of call. I headed that one off and said the next port of call would be New York and to get the word to Ivan. I did not him out on Lake Michigan

and me in New York studio with s kettle. Another sleepless night.

It's show time. The big day has arrived and I am relieved to hear that Ivan was indeed in the studio. The relief was short lived because there was an ominous silence when I asked about "my star". Friends said to give him a wide berth because he was talking to no one and mumbling into a little black book. Okay, I'm getting it and the message is all bad. Then I have my first glimpse of Ivan. He who had looked normal is now in costume - a flowing tie dyed caftan with matching turban.

I make a hasty retreat to the studio - Ivan has transformed into a laundromat. He had a clothesline stretched from one end to the other with tie-dyed sheets. The kettle is now monstrous in size with steam going up to meet the kleig lights.

I am now wondering if I should sweat this one out or start looking in the N.Y. Times Classified before we go on the air... Ahh - in for a penny, in for a pound - I wait it out.

On air Ivan has Barbara Walters, Hugh Downs and Joe Garagiola gathered around the kettle, and with that steam, it looks like we're doing a scene from Macbeth. Ivan is standing in front of a tie-dyed sheet. With his outfit on, he is blending in with the scenery so that all you see is a profile nose and a mouth talking. Very surreal but unplanned. I don't suppose his appearance matters because he is not even talking about tie-dying. Ivan has coins and wants the talent to throw a coin into the kettle and make a wish (I think I know what they are wishing). Joe

keeps telling him to hurry up because we are a two-hour program (for some reason Ivan thinks he has the whole two hours).

Finally, we get back on track and he digs various items out of the kettle and presents gifts to Barbara, Joe and Hugh. Ever the good sport, Joe puts on his tie - through the mist I think I see that Joe is the only one with a smile on his face.

However, I have escaped to the newsroom where everyone is screaming with laughter - wondering where we found him and who is responsible. I offer no information and go back to the studio to get whatever. I am ready with my story. How could I avoid disaster? Who knew he was into "I Ching" and coins. When I pre-interviewed him he was dressed like a person - do you go around asking all guests if they are going to appear in costume? Did one small kettle in his apartment mean it would grow to king size for the studio, albeit with laundromat motif?? Obviously, I had a lot to learn on this job - if they'd let me be around for it

Unfortunately, Barbara spots me and says, "You know, Marian, (drat, she knows my name) we really should get the best for the program".

Hey, hey - I am learning fast - my retort to Barbara - THAT WAS THE BEST!

Marian

Retirement - It's Lovely

by Marcia Kuyper Schneider

When Pete Peterson called to say I should write about anything, it seemed rather a big order. However, notwithstanding all the great things we have all done together, like YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS, PERRY COMO, SING ALONG WITH MITCH MILLER, THE BELL TELEPHONE HOUR, VOICE OF FIRESTONE, COLOR COMMERCIALS, etc., I thought it would be more fun to tell you a little about my "After Retirement" trip to Armenia.

So, where's Armenia? It used to be a part of the Soviet Union, and is now one of the newly independent republics struggling to survive the break-up of Communist Russia.

How did all this happen? Easy! One day I got a call from Dr. Russell Barber. (You remember, he used to produce and host his own TV Show on NBC TV, THE FIRST ESTATE: RELIGION IN REVIEW, which I directed. Now Russ runs his own production company, ENLIGHTENMENT ENTERPRISES, INC., and since he is on excellent terms with all the world's religious leaders, he does a great deal of programming for them.

At any rate, Russ called and said, "How would you like to go to Armenia?" "You bet," I said, thinking he was putting me on. "No! I'm not kidding!" he assured me. "I can't go due to other commitments, but The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, wants to film a documentary on the American medical and food airlift to their country. I have a crew, but I need a

producer/director," "Fine!" I said, and the rest, as they say is history..., although I must admit I couldn't quite tell if my husband, Frank, was glad or sad that I was leaving for Armenia!!!

We left JFK on a fine, very cold February night, me and my crew and His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America; Dr. Edgar Housepian, Neurosurgeon at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York; and The Hon. Vincent Gurahian, Judge of the New York Supreme Court. We flew overnight to Paris, arriving early the next morning. The first bit of excitement came when we tried to get all of our equipment and all of us on the one plane that leaves Paris for Armenia. That's ONE PLANE A WEEK --NOT ONE A DAY. You heard me, one a week, and because of weight limitations, there was a possibility that we might have to leave some equipment behind, thereby jeopardizing the shoot. But, we managed to get it all on, and flew out of Paris that night, not on time, of course, arriving at Yerevan, the Capital of Armenia at 3 AM in the dark of the next morning.

The trip on Aeroflot was an experience in itself, and one we will never forget. It was truly a "Democratic" flight where the passengers were free to do whatever they wanted, So, they did. They smoked when the "No smoking" light was on; they sang, they drank, and they strolled around the plane, when the "Seat Belt" sign was on. We even visited the cockpit during the flight, and found our Aeroflot pilots also having a wonderful time smoking, and drinking cognac and wine as they flew us to Armenia!

In spite of it all, we arrived safely in Yerevan. After a few hectic hours in customs (where we had to promise not to sell our equipment on the Black cont'd on Page 23.

cont'd from Page 22.

Market), we were met by Church vans from the Monastery at Etchmiadzin, where stands the Mother Church. (Don't even try to pronounce it. Just trust me. It is spelled right!) It was bitter cold and we were tired and hungry, and the schedule called for us to start shooting early that same morning in Spitak, a town some distance to our north. Arriving at the Monastery in the early morning hours, and I do mean early, we found (happily) our little rooms (which had probably been monks' cells in the earlier days of the church). Although we were glad to have our own small space, looking at the four bare walls of my little room for the next week made me absolutely sure this was a "no frills" trip. I remembered how many times I had changed rooms on other remotes because something was wrong with accommodations, and had to laugh because otherwise I might have cried! There was no heat in the monastery, so after a cold shower and putting on layers of clean clothing, we bundled ourselves, slipping and sliding on weeks worth of packed snow and ice, to another building which housed the dining room. Breakfast was an interesting combination of huge thick slices of bread and very hot (and appreciated) delicious tea with loads of sugar. . . not exactly diet fare, but great for the cold weather.

We all piled into a huge van, driven by an Armenian driver who was very cheerful but did not speak a word of English. And off we went to Spitak with the crew, the equipment, the Primate, the Judge, and a very sweet lady who was our interpreter whenever the Archbishop or Judge were not around. The country is beautiful, and with the snow on the mountains, it is spectacular. I thought of all you ski enthusiasts.

At Spitak, there were trucks of U.S. surplus butter being loaded to take to the various villages. Loading was done inside a huge warehouse and it was handled very fairly and efficiently. The butter was counted out for each household according to how many in each family, and placed onto trucks designated for specific villages. Now is the time to mention the four Armenian volunteers. They play a huge part later in this story. Two were American and two were Canadian, and they volunteered to come to Armenia to help in the Church's aid efforts there. In Spitak they were to oversee the loading of the butter, making sure the supplies got to the right destination without any cheating. Incidentally, with so many Armenian girls wanting to immigrate to the USA, our volunteers received many offers of marriage from young villagers. But, as of this writing, I am not aware of anyone succumbing.

We had just finished shooting the butter operation, when the Archbishop, while walking down an icy snow covered hill, slipped, fell, and broke his hand. Not to be outdone, I went down next and hurt my leg. We went on to the next remote site, a town called Stephanavan, where new housing was being built. On the return to Etchmiadzin and the Monastery we stopped at a small hospital. The Archbishop had his hand set, and they x-rayed my leg a few times and pronounced it to be a bad sprain. (Ha!) The Armenian doctor did worry me a bit because while they were bandaging my leg, they mentioned having seen some white slashes on the x-ray, and they asked if I had ever broken that leg or foot before. Since I had not, we let it go at that.



Marcia, enjoying an old Armenian past-time, Be careful guys, God is watching ! (She says it's an Armenian Rick-shaw) or piggy back ride ! - with a broken leg.

23.

In the next few days we taped all over: At the schools that were closed due to no heat or food, the markets, and the homes of the people. This part of the assignment was sad. The markets and bakeries did not have much food, but what they did have, very few Armenians could afford.

On the streets just outside the Capital, we saw sheep being butchered, right along the roadside. They were sold to whomever could afford to buy. There is no doubt that the people were suffering. But, as one couple remarked: "This is bad, but not as bad as having your neighbors disappear during the night, never to be seen again, as during the Communist years!"

The priests at the monastery were from all over the world; some came to study, all to help. Needless to say, they were terrific to this bunch of very demanding people who upset their routine, wanted them to be on time for taping, etc. One Father came to visit to see how I was holding up, and informed me that he knew my leg was broken because in his other life he had been a pharmacist. I began to believe him when my leg turned all lovely shades of purple, pink, yellow, black and blue. Also, it was very swollen, and it hurt a great deal. It was not until the next day, when I was taping Dr. Housenian at the Yerevan Airport supervising the distribution of medical supplies that had just arrived on a US C-5 Cargo plane, that he confirmed the diagnosis. I had broken my leg in three places!

Remember way back I told you what a fabulous job those American and Canadian Armenian volunteers were doing in Spitak? Well, now they went way beyond the call of duty! No longer could I walk on my leg. And, there were no crutches, no canes, not even some strong sticks to help me support my leg. So, those wonderful long suffering volunteers took turns carrying me piggy back so I could continue overseeing the taping. Also, I hopped a lot! and, indeed, we shot some great footage, thanks to a fine crew. I must admit that I felt a bit out of place in the Cathedral, hopping toward the host. But, what the heck!

My return trip to the States is another story in itself. Suffice it to say, I was put on a United States Airforce C-5 Transport from Armenia to Adano, Turkey. The air crew had all served in the Persian Gulf, and made the trip exceptional and as comfortable as possible. From Adano via Turkish Airlines to Istanbul; Delta to Frankfurt and home to JFK. This took three days and nights with a very painful broken leg and lots of sign language in Turkey where nobody spoke English. Our State Department was super, and helped facilitate my transfer. It's just too bad they don't fly Turkish Airlines where a little translation would have been very welcomed. But, as I say, the return home is another story!

We really had a great program in the end, and we're about to start production on another one for the Armenian Church. But this time I'm not going to Armenia, but to Racine, Wisconsin, where there's a large Armenian Community. And I'm going to try very hard to avoid any ice and snow, so I can keep body and soul together. But on reflection, I'd go back to Armenia again, because not only was my first trip a fascinating experience, but it was also two unique moments in US-Armenian history. First, I helped document the initial US Food Aid given to a former Soviet Republic after the break-up of the soviet regime. And second, I was the first U.S. Civilian to be flown out of Armenia on a United States Military Aircraft. That C-5 cargo jet arrived in Armenia with 72 metric tons of food and medical supplies, and left with me and my broken leg! God Bless America!

Marcia



Past a very watchful Armenian guard, Marcia being hauled up into a whale (?another old Armenian custom?) - Nah, it's a C-5 Cargo jet.

Ken's Korner

Announcer's Delite

The announcer's "Delite" was a small console that protruded from the wall near the control room, in each studio on the third and eight floor. There was a single earphone for monitoring, and a stand mike with a 44B mike for the announcer. He would get his cues from the director in the control room. The director would give him hand signals through the control room window. All the radio talent would receive their cues in this same manner.

Over the many years as a Studio Engineer, I had the pleasure of working with all the NBC staff announcers, and of course with many freelance announcers. Every so often, I would be fortunate to have the pleasure of working with Pat Kelly, the NBC chief announcer, when he was holding open auditions for aspiring young announcers. Some of them had a little experience as an announcer in a small radio station, and others just a desire to become one some day, saying "this is so and so, your announcer from the National Broadcasting Co.

Pat Kelly was an extremely kind and fatherly gentleman when he conducted these auditions. With his gray hair, rich voice and gentle attitude, he put these young people at ease. Each person would bring their favorite piece to read, plus a sheet with names of famous composers, that Pat had provided for them, to check their pronunciation, such as Chopin, Wagner and several difficult names.

Each was given time to complete their audition; I never heard Pat stop them and each audition lasted ten or 15 minutes. Pat seated next to me would listen for about 3 or 4 minutes, and in that time he could determine if the auditionee had any potential. If they did not, he would ask me to turn the gain down, and he and I would hold a conversation until the auditionee had finished..

Pat would then go out to the studio and hold a fatherly conversation with the young man, never saying "You have failed", but he would use the same story with each one, saying, "You must assume your voice is like an instrument. A Stradivarius violin is the best violin, but if it isn't played correctly it does not make sweet music. Learn how to use your voice, and try again. "Don't call us, we will call you".

Station managers from many of the NBC affiliate stations would sometimes come to the control room during these auditions in hope of picking a young announcer with a minimum amount of experience, and willing to work at a starting salary, as they would not be union members of AFTRA.

Other times I would do auditions for commercial agencies, where the talent was experienced freelance people. I recall one of these auditions conducted by the late Art Hanna for Air Features Agency. In the group waiting to be auditioned was a couple of NBC announcers, namely Clyde Kittel and Peter Roberts. During the audition, Art called on Clyde Kittel, who said his audition consisted of having Peter Roberts with him. Art knew immediately this was a joke, and told him to go ahead with Peter. They stepped up to the mike, Peter holding his miniature Bull Dog in his arms, and both did a humorous audition.

Art told me his name was a stage name, as his given name was too hard to pronounce, as it was of Italian and Yugoslavian background.

This story is about Jim Fleming...

While working on the radio show "Road of Life" and "Right to Happiness", after the war, I worked with the announcer of both shows, Hugh Conover. He would come into the control room and we would exchange "War Stories". We had something in common, in that we were both in Troop Entertainment while in the service; He in a radio station in Japan, and I in a radio station in North Africa. He recounted the following story.

One day, who should show up at his station, but Jim Fleming. Of course they knew each other from working in Radio in New York, where they both competed for announcing jobs. They greeted each other with a minimum of enthusiasm. Jim expressed his feeling at being assigned to this radio station, and made it clear he was going to do everything in his power to get transferred out. He then told Hugh he had been instructed to report to the commanding officer, a Lieutenant Distilhurst, and he was going to put in a request for a transfer. He then asked Hugh to direct him to this Lieutenant. Hugh then informed Jim he was now talking with Lt. Distilhurst, but Jim insisted he knew Hugh as Hugh Conover. Hugh explained he was commissioned as Distilhurst, his given name, and that Conover was a **stage name**. I'm sure



Ken Arber sends in this beach foto of some NBC Old Timers, taken by the NBC Photo Department, (now totally deactivated), then run by Sid Desfor, about the year 1940... Far right is the late CLIFF PAUL, then KEN ARBER. On Ken's right, is WILBUR WELSH of the Traffic Department.... Second row left, in back of the lady with sun glasses, is JERRY TRUHLAR of Engineering.

Letters letters Letters

DON BLAIR

320 Venice Golf & Country Club Blvd.
Venice, Florida 34292
(813) 497-0130

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January 11, 1993

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

Dear Pete,

I had to move to Florida to really appreciate the latest edition of Peacock North in exactly the way that so many NBC retirees react and comment to you and Dan in their letters.

Delighted to read that Herb Gordon and Bill Hanrahan have finally discovered the special magic that your gatherings provide - they are both old friends and very special people. I know you and your colleagues try very hard not to print every discouraging word about 30 Rock that comes along but it does come through in comments from Geraldine Fabrikant, Dan and others and it's very, very sad to say the least. I could read between the lines vis a vis the 25 year club gathering and just be thankful I got there in time to put in some fruitful years at a still great radio network.

Hope to see Wayne Howell and perhaps Roger Tuttle and others at the upcoming Orlando bash. Despite not having known most of the retired "Peacocks" they always make a radio type feel welcome. Also noted the presence of John Marrin (with photo) in the last paper plus apparent reference to Henry Mackrin (?) spelled Macklin in Dan's Pot-Pourri column. Hope to see all of the above at our annual NBC Radio Net gathering April 23rd at the St. Moritz.

My regards and continued admiration to "Rippy". He should have bought the Daily News. Miss all you folks but not your weather.

Cheers,

Don Blair

Audio-Visual Spokesman for Business and Industry

Tom & Eunice Smiley, at a recent NBCFR get-together.



Hey! Hurry up and get well, Eunice!



Jim Schaeffer and Elmer Gorry

Ken's Korner cont'd, part 2 & 3.

Jim received his transfer immediately after that meeting.

While writing this, I had intended contacting Old Timer announcers to refresh my memory, since the last time I worked as a studio engineer was 44 years ago.

Fortunately Roger and Pat Tuttle were visiting Walter and Doris Vetter, in Stuart Fla.. Walt put Roger onto his Ham station with our two meter group, answered my questions and gave us some news about himself.

Roger is building a small two seater "Pusher Plane" in his basement. It has a 30 foot wingspan, a sixty five horsepower engine, a cruising speed of about 90 MPH. He plans to be able to land and take off from his horse farm in "Colts Neck, New Jersey. He has passed his physical exam, and his wife is looking forward to flying with him. In the meantime, he has his horse farm up for sale, and is thinking of renting his present home, and building a lof cabin in North Carolina.

Roger came with NBC in 1946, and when he became staff announcer, his first assignment was the NBC Symphony, conducted by Arturo Toscanini. He said he was scared stiff with that assignment...

From a copy of the 1946 NABET Broadcast Journal, I am enclosing the names of the announcers. Ed "Stolzy" Stolzenberger was the editor of the December issue.

TEX ANTOINE
KEN BANGHART
RAY BARRETT
JACK COSTELLO
BILL DAVIES
ROBERT DENTON
DICK DUDLEY

ARTHUR GARY
BEN GRAUER
RAD HALL
ED HERIHY
CLYDE KITTELL
CHARLES F. MCCARTHY
TOM OBRIEN

DON PARDO
JACK RAYEL
MAL RITTER
HERB SHELDON
BOB SHERRY
JOHN SIMPSON
ROGER TUTTLE

AND OF COURSE, OUR BOSS MAN PAT KELLY

Constance Ford, who you all remember as "Ada" in *Another World* Soap from Brooklyn. She played the role for 25 years, and she was 69.

Not only did she do television, Connie has also appeared in films, "A Summer Place", "Home From The Hills", "Rome Adventure", and "The Caretakers". On Broadway, she first appeared in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman", as the prostitute in the original 1949 production. Other B'way productions saw her in "See The Jaguar" (with Jimmy Dean), "Say Darling", "Golden Fleecing", & "Nobody Loves an Albatross", with Robert Preston.

Connie was loved by all of us who worked with her in those 25 years. We'll miss her.

John Spagnola. We are saddened on the news of John's departure, on March 2nd. John was a long time employee, in tv operations. John's forte, was the intricate maneuvering of the Chapman crane around the congested studio floor, where there was hardly room for all this equipment. I've seen John drive Al Camoin racing all the way across the studio floor, following dancers and Perry Como, and hit his marks every time precisely. He worked many of the "big shows", mostently recently on Sat Nite Live, where there was no room at all. John was loved by all his fellow workers. He is survived by Frances, his wife, who works in costuming on *Another World*, in Brooklyn, and son John Jr. currently working SNL.

Earl Wrightson, singer, actor, and baritone died at his home in Norwich, Conn.

Earl had worked at NBC as a page 1938, 39 & 1940 with Dick Dudley for \$15. a week, and appeared together on TV in its first year of regular telecasts. In the 40's and 50's he starred in his own TV show, became a radio regular on "Prudential Family Hour", "Coca Cola Hour", with Andre Kostelanetz. The list is enormous, and includes many Broadway productions which include "Camelot", "Kiss me Kate", "Paint Your Wagon", "I Do, I Do", "Man of La Mancha", "South Pacific", "Can Can", "Silk Stockings", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Gigi", "A Little Night Music", "Sound of Music" and many others. His last major singing role was in *The Sound of Music*.

Dick Dudley says he not only had a wonderful voice, (which I can attest to) but also a delightful disposition and sense of humor.

He was 77.

Vic Gerson, retired T.D., passed on recently: As soon as I heard his soft spoken, but confident voice on the "pl", I knew everything was O.K. in his film area. We have enjoyed many happy moments at work. He was a truly wonderful human being. Sadly, I have again no information to share, other than he is survived by his wife, Mary, in Centereach, N.Y.

Alexander Masone, retired Technical Director, died Feb. 18, 1993 of lung cancer. He was 78. Al had been a TD for 30 years and retired in 1979.

PN had a beautiful note from daughter Valerie,

"thanking PN for our expression of sympathy, which will always be remembered."

She "would like Pete and everyone in Peacock North to know how very much her dad enjoyed belonging to his retirement club. He was never a "joiner" and was very content to just take care of his home and family in his quiet way. P.N. was the one and only group he participated in. He truly looked forward to all your functions. His face would be lit up for days afterwards.

.... Thank you all for giving him these happy memories"..

Sincerely, Valerie, Richard and Ida Masone.

Tom Priestly, film cameraman. Tom, a veteran award winning cameraman who earned his stripes long before they invented the term "photo journalist", died under unusual and unfortunate circumstances in New York on January 30th. He was enroute to his doctor, and he was to be married to Ann Garfield Black that weekend. Tom, who was 75, died of a heart attack.

He started his career with Universal Pictures, then during WW II was assigned to General Patton's ETO command. On one assignment, he filmed the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. Later, in the Far East, he documented the surrender of the Japanese aboard the battleship Missouri in 1945.

Nine of the 300 news and TV docs he worked on at NBC and AbC won Emmy Awards. They included: "The Louvre", John Steinbeck's "America", "Sahara", and "Venice be Damned!". In 1980 he directed "The Killing Ground" for ABC, a report on toxic wastes, which won an Emmy and was nominated for an Academy Award, according to the NY Times.

John Davenport: A tv journalist, who worked for WRC-TV in Washington and KABC-TV in Los Angeles in the 1960's, died at the age of 62 at his home in Houston in January. In later years, he was news director of KPRC and KHOU in Houston, originated "Washington Week in Review", for PBS and won an Emmy along the way. Most recently he was a reporter and commentator for KTRK hosting a Texas-oriented program entitled "J.D.'s Journal"

Welles Hangen, correspondent.

Welles disappearance in the Orient has been a mystery for 23 years until his remains were returned to the U.S. from Cambodia in January after his corpse was located and positively identified. Forty year old Hangen and his tv news crew on assignment from NBC were siezed by Viet Cong and Khmer Rouge guerillas in May, 1970, and were killed three days later. Moments before their capture, a CBS crew led by George Sylvetsen and travelling on the same road, was killed when their jeep struck a mine. More than a score of correspondents died covering the wars in Southeast Asia.

Soon after Hangen's disappearance, his widow Patricia, pushed for a search, but those efforts folded in 1975..

When the Cambodian government expressed

interest in a peace accord and became more friendly in 1991, an NBC team and later a U.S. Military team, was permitted to search for the Hangen crew but they found no evidence. In 1992, the military returned to the same area and found four skeletons, including Hangen's.

He had been a reporter for the NY Times before joining NBC as a correspondent in 1958. Welles Hangen's body was buried in Arlington Cemetery Jan 30th and his widow received the flag that had been draped over his coffin.

PEOPLE .. cont'd fm Page 8.

trying out a retirement village. Beautiful houses and good golf course, but we don't play golf, and the people were **old**.

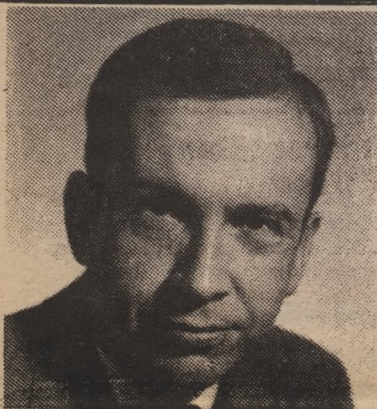
Another idea shot!.... Perry took friends from Troy on the Universal tour and all went to the Tonight Show. After all the years Perry worked on the show it seemed strange to sit in the audience.... We're all well. Perry does some announcing, continues in choir and is working with two production groups trying to sell tv shows. Pam takes care of the house, the dog, the cat and everything else.... Best for 1993!.... **JOSEPH STURNIOLO** read about references to WSLB in Ogdensburg, N.Y. and a flood of memories came back...

When Ray Lafferty left WSLB to go to NBC, it set up a daisy chain that eventually led both to me and in turn Al Vitucci being hired by NBC... Look for "Scared Kid feels Good" in a **MEMORIES** section.

SUSAN PETERSON, entrepreneur of SP Productions Inc. in Washington, is keeping experienced tv people in work. She has expanded her staff to eight for her media training and tv production services. Now on call are **JIM DICKENSON**, ex Washington Post, **DON RHEEM**, ex Wash. Bureau chief for the Christian Science Monitor tv net, **STEVE AVESON**, longtime anchor and correspondent, **ROBERT DREYFUSS**, journalist, and **ANNE COWAN** and **MARGIE ELSBERG**, who are part of the Peterson training team. They are at **800:929-SPPI**.

FRANK WEILL: There was a party at Blakes, for Frank 'cause he has joined the ranks of the retired after at least 43 years. I first recall Frank as a cameraman on the Hit Parade in the 50's, later in tape, then into management. Welcome to the world of relax!

TONY NELLE Thanks Tony for typing up Marcia's article onto disk for me..



Welles Hangen



Al Masone



John Spagnola



Connie Ford

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PEACOCK NORTH is a
nonprofit organization of
NBC retirees

Pete Peterson's
Message

CHANGE

Change. That's the theme of the Nineties. With new political re-forms arriving, just about everyone and everything is affected. The changes though, can be taken in stride, not necessarily feared.

To our PN group, change is not new. After all, we can recall all the changes during our lifetime. We were fortunate to have been on the launch pad of technological advancement and with "We Have Seen The Future"(GM Exposition) at the World's Fair in 1939, we were aware change was coming. More tech changes have occurred during our last 50 years than in the preceding 500. We are the benefactors of these advancements. Coupled with the sociological changes and presently with an emphasis on ecological purification, these factors further change and enhance our well being. Change then, is not all that onerous. The dividend in the quality of life and with extended life expectancy, it has allowed us to enjoy longer the fruits of our generations contributions.

We too, at PN headquarters have experienced changes. We started out with 30 members in 1987, and now we have a roster of over 600. Along the way we have learned about interesting stories and anecdotes that our resourceful membership advanced us for publication. We had at the beginning the advantage of one special person, Sam Sambataro, who combined his ability to write and publish the earliest newsletters. His passing has always been considered a tremendous loss, and almost finalized our groups to communicate.

Then a change occurred, and we were indeed very fortunate to have Heino Ripp step into the spot to put together the most GRAND newsletter of any group this size. (with a comparative budget that would be less than any local show ever had!). It is with regret that I now have to report Rippy is leaving that post, due to his

personal commitments. We shall miss his superb ability to coordinate all the elements in producing this newsletter.

Fortunately, he will act in an advisory capacity for us.

Change then again is upon us. A new team is forming to continue the newsletter. Its form may be somewhat different. It will be a change, but the contents will remain on those interests of the membership. Those in nearby areas are welcome to offer assistance. We can use help by those with word processing or computer equipment. We can provide all the program and peripherals necessary. Feel free to call and let us know how you may be part of this journal.

At this time, we are scheduling only one get-together for 1993. It will be at La Maganette on May 23... With the discontinuance of the NBC 25 year event, This May event and the Florida retirees annual Spring event are the only two remaining opportunities to see one another. Change your appointments so that so that you don't pass up these narrowing chances. I look forward to seeing YOU in May, so PLEASE, "Be There".

Regards, Pete Peterson

Alzheimer Drug
Clears Hurdle

An FDA Advisory committee unanimously recommended FDA approval of a Warner-Lambert drug for treatment of Alzheimer's. The Drug "Cognex" had shown positive, though small effects in a number of Alz. patients. If FDA approves, Cognex expects to be on the market by mid summer.

Nutritional folks have been using Chelation Therapy for Alzheimer patients, dripping E.D.T.A. into the vein. The theory is that this leaches out plaque and metals etc. from arteries, to increase blood supply to the brain.

Chelation Therapy is also used for circulation problems. I know a fellow who had blood stoppage in the legs, then also a heart attack. The Doctor, a cardiac surgeon opted to give him EDTA drip rather than do a by-pass operation. After a few treatments, the man hasn't felt better for years. He now has taken 17 treatments. Color has returned to his face, he is active, and there no longer is necessity to think of a heart by-pass operation. This method has been used for lead (and heavy metals removal). Since many things are removed, minerals and vitamins are replaced orally. Treatments are about \$100 per, and this Doc has an office in Edison, N.J. - (H.)

TO JOIN PEACOCK NORTH

Please send application, with a check for \$20 made out to :

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

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Cost is \$20. per person.

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Silent Mikes
(a late add.)

Max Miller, Director, passed away at Studio City. He was 74. Max was at NBC for twelve years. He directed the original Today Show, and Wide Wide World with Dave Garroway. He worked at C.B.S. and A.B.C. after leaving N.B.C.



Mark & dad Lee Carlton
at NBCFR Spring Bash

Photos From Our Album



Elmer Gorry loaned this pix to us at the Winter Festival in December. Taken in December 1968, at the War Memorial Hall in Rochester, New York, where they were Televising "ICE-CAPADES". Left to right: JIM CULLEY, JIMMY DURANTE, CAL SHADWELL, ELMER GORRY, AND FRANK GAETA.

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