



P.N. People

"He made so many of them". That's a quote somewhere on the facade of the News Building on 42nd street, as we recall it. And today it certainly refers also, to the hordes of NBC Vets who now belong to Peacock North. The four year old organization, established in 1987 after Pete Peterson's retirement bash, started out with just 30 members and now it boasts well over 500 -AND GROWING.

-- And what are they doing.... cont'd Pge 3.

Date Set For N.B.C. 25 Yr. Club

NBC has set the date for this years celebration for those who have attained their 25th year. This year, they number more than usual, around fifty inductees.

None of you are strangers to this club. As usual NBC retirees will again be looking forward to this classy event. Lunch with Mary Stringfield and Ariane Mautner (Emp. Benefits/Srvcs) revealed some intriguing changes. See Pete's column on pge 11. for some surprises. [H.]

Oktoberfest

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1991,
RAMADA INN, CLIFTON

Early as it may seem, Pete Peterson, has just finalized the date for this years "OKTOBERFEST". See write-up regarding the details in his column.

We'd appreciate your sending in the OKTOBERFEST reservation coupon. Come wander amongst your cronies and schmooze while having coffee and goodies, then sit and have a delicious brunch. Make this OKTOBERFEST even better than the last one -"a Bash to remember".

La Maganette



Spring Fling Attracts Overflow Crowd of PN Members

By Dan Grabel

More than 125 members of Peacock North gathered for the Spring event at La Maganette restaurant on Sunday, April 28th and the bright, sunny day outside mirrored by the atmosphere inside as old cronies met again for a few hours of reminiscence, and hey, the lunch wasn't bad either.

Major domo PETE PETERSON and wife PEG were on the receiving line, making sure one and all got their name plates so that fading memories would not embarrass anyone when a spouse might ask, "Who is that?"

FRANK De RIENZO was introduced as our new president, replacing GENE MARTIN...



FRANK --->

cont'd pge 2.

As Frank told the story, there he was standing in line with several other retirees when Pete called out, "Anyone who would like to be President, Please step forward". Frank continues, "Everyone took one step back, except me, so here I am !" It's the second time he's held a presidential title.. When Frank was a senior at Summit, New Jersey High School in the 1940's, he was dragooned for the job, and since his initials were F.D.R., he was a shoo in, like the man from Hyde Park !

Frank reflected on the essence of Peacock North when he reminded the crowd that many of us spent more time with each other at 30 Rock than we spent with our families.

De Rienzo (a long time TD) is best remembered by PN members as an ace cameraman whose normal week in the early days included working on The Lucky Strike Hit Parade, then moving along to Robert Montgomery Presents, and then finishing his six day stint with the Texaco Star Theater starring Milton Berle. There's enough history here to write a thin book - or maybe some anecdotes for the PN Newsletter !



What we have been calling the "Announcer's Table" had a good turnout with (now let's do this alphabetically since we don't want any tiffs over billing), **ARTHUR GARY** and **SPOUSE**, **VIC ROBY**, and **DON PARDO** and **SPOUSE**. All obviously enjoying themselves.



ED NEWMAN strolled over from his digs, about two blocks away. Among the first timers was **FRED LIGHTS**, long time floor manager on **TODAY**.

Long distance honors again went to **MARJORIE SHIELDS**, up from Boca Raton. And to make us all envious, Marjorie says she's soon off to China on a 24 day tour. **ROSE DeRENZIS** of the Advertising and Promotion Dept disclosed that she's accepting a buyout and will be a full-fledged member of Peacock North.

Two members announced their birthdays, an important number, but we're not blurring it out here... Congratulations to **GLORIA CLYNE**, who has done 17 years with Betty Furness, (how's that for a long run?) and also to **JOE MEHAN**, once of the News Dept.

By an informal show of hands, Peterson determined that the revelers would like to gather again in October, and we probably will .

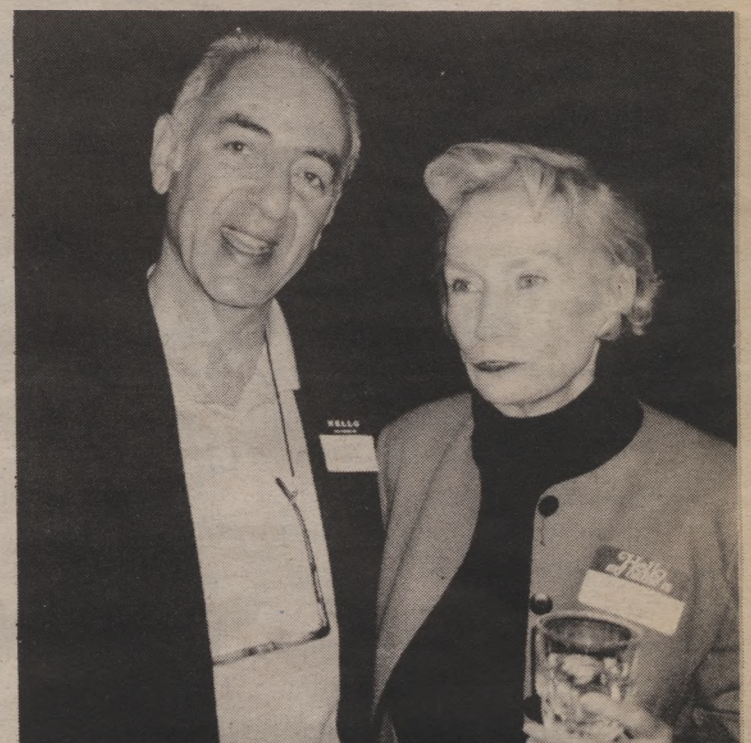
MARIE FINNEGAN, who spent her NBC career with the **TODAY** Show, and **JOAN GIFFORD**, remind us that **TODAY**, ..(the show that critics in 1952, said "wouldn't make it" - even as Dave Garroway and J. Fred Muggs stepped on to the set in the windows of the RCA Exhibition Hall)..., now will mark its 40th Anniversary on January 14th, 1992. Marie and Joan want the word to go out that anyone and everyone who ever worked **TODAY** should attend Peacock North's get-together next spring to celebrate the occasion. We may need Madison Square Garden for that one !

The luncheon part lasted from noon till 3 pm and then all were invited to bring back memories with a visit to 30 Rock which Pete had arranged with NBC. The tour we all remember as costing 50 cents when it was created, now costs \$ 7.50, but GE/NBC graciously invited retirees over "on the house", and included refreshments. Many who had not seen the new electronic miracle there, with automation developed to a frightening degree, were awed by robots.

(We of PN wish to thank NBC for being gracious hosts).



Fred Collins Dan Grabel (b.g.) Joe Meehan (derriere)



Gene Waldstein Kathy Greene

PEOPLE cont'd fm Pge 1.

with their free time? Here's the way they tell it: **ALAN SMILER** off to Italy AGAIN and then on to San Francisco and Omaha for a couple of conventions. (Al, what kind of conventions? Ugh, these incomplete reports!)... **JANE** and **GENE GARNES** report their seventh grandchild being born, even as they write the note (hmm, long delivery). In mid-August they are off to an Alaska cruise. Otherwise Gene spends many an hour at the Waterloo Village Model Airplane field in New Jersey on windless days... **DOROTHY BODINE** is working on a novel and tv-screen play. For recreation, she's a bird watcher with the Audubon Society... **IRENE** and **JACK KEEGAN** recently spent one month in Northern Germany; Berlin, Munich, Regensburg and also Cologne to see the cathedral. Start contrast between east and west, like day and night, with ports in the Eastern section still baring the scars of WW II - and that's 50 years ago... **LEE** and **IRENE PLISKIN** spend time at the Jersey shore. He's getting ready for a challenge golf match with **LEE CARLTON**. The Pliskin's have ten grandchildren, with the youngest baptized David Patrick...



Sal Benza and Lee Pliskin
enjoying the Mini Lunch at Piccolissimo

FRED LIGHTS, the former stage manager of Today, says he's feeling fine after triple by-pass heart surgery. And, by the way, he's "available" if you have a stage and want it managed. At LaMagnetite he sat with **ED NEWMAN** and they had a chance to recall the days when Ed and **JOHN CHANCELLOR** were the anchors (1962)... **DENISE ROBINSON** is still missing NBC but she's engrossed in her work at Tremont Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program in the Bronx. She was recently appointed head nurse for the new facility which opens June 6th... **ALEIDA AETZE**, still on the payroll at 30 Rock, recently vacationed in Puerto Rico... Also still at the RCA (oops) GE Building is **RUTHE STONE** in Network Business Operations. She just returned from what she calls two weeks in paradise, otherwise spelled Scottsdale, Arizona... **RAY WOLF**, who retired two years ago says he is loving it and life in a townhouse in Roselle, N.J. He makes three visits a week to the Spa, and for excitement, watches other folks get haircuts!!! While he loves Jersey, Ray may be moving to Payson, Arizona in the near future. He may have to start a Peacock Southwest... The light fantastic. That's the fun time for **ESTHER WEINSTEIN** and spouse **BEN**. They love ballroom dancing and also their two little granddaughters who keep them happily occupied... In between PN gatherings, **STAS PYKA**, **BILL SHORTRIDGE**, **CATHY VUKOVICH** and **GLORIA SETTLE** meet once a month to "lift a few and slice up old friends". All in fun, all in fun....

Former PN president **GENE MARTIN** does his share of traveling between New Jersey and Florida where he likes to get in a round of golf while the chill winds blow up here...

FRANK GAETA has a universal problem. Can't get it down - his golf handicap that is. He plays three days a week, but that little ball is still giving him trouble. (Facts, facts, but Frank, what is your handicap?)... **MARCEL THIENPONT** enjoys recreating the scenery of the Poconos on canvas. When he is in a "representational" frame of mind, he likes to paint the streams of the Delaware National Recreation Area. He's also experimenting with contemporary art. He doesn't recognize it when he's finished -should we? Hey Marcel, maybe you should get yourself a bicycle and a bucket, and follow Jackson Pollack's technique. He made a buck that way and think of the fun bike-riding while pursuing your art...



Marcel, here schmoozing (and boozing?)
at the Picco with Harold Miller.

ROD RODAMISTA is out of 30 Rock but still active. He's just finalized the organization of a new production company, Omnisphere Productions, Inc. and is now concluding negotiations with French and Italian co-producers and planning to go into production early next year. (Sorry folks, no other details)... Engineering's **BILL FLOOD** is still involved with the Miss America Pageant, now in his 20th year. Otherwise he is still enjoying boating and golf... Winter travels for **HERB** and **RENEE OXMAN** included a Florida visit to **WALT** and **DORIS VETTER**, where they have a lovely lakefront home. Herb attended the NAB gathering in Las Vegas, and then skied in Colorado. Renee went in the other direction and flew off the Paris to visit with the grandchildren... **HOWIE ATLAS** has set a new LOW in his golf. No, not his score or handicap. Howie played in February when the wind chill factor registered a chilling eight degrees. (Howie, you should have dropped your niblick and gone skiing with Herb)...



Eddie and Kim Band
- at La Maganette,

looking like they're enjoying retirement !

cont'd Pge 4.

PEOPLE

(cont'd fm pg 3)

JOYCE HURLEY was one of the attractive ladies at the LaMagnette luncheon. She's been working the Donohue show for the past five years. (Gosh, after that what do you do for erotic excitement?)... Seen in the NYC subway: mystery man/newswriter **JOE COGGINS**. Joe had a fellowship at Harvard and a research visit to China... **JACK**

VANBUSKIRK now knows its true: most accidents happen in the home, or within 25 miles of home. Jack broke a leg while doing a chore at home and will be in plaster for a while. Would have never happened if you were behind your desk in the press department, Jack...



Jack Dolan just heard about the Sat. Nite Live's "Find the Pope in The Pizza" contest, so he was trying hard for the first Prize, a trip to Rome. Jack Van Buskirk (at Right) of course knew that the contest ended 7 years ago, but PN's cameras caught him turning away, not to embarrass Dolan. Jack, of course had already won the trip years ago. (Only kidding guys, but what do you expect at 3 am. Crazy things come out of my computer after midnight. heino)

SIG BAJAK, who was one of those scheduled to work the Moscow Olympics for NBC, until Jimmy Carter decided Americans would not compete, has put his Russian language skill to use. Sig translated the Russian novel "Master and Margarita" into English. It was later adapted for the stage, and a reading of the play was recently given at the Emelin Theater in Mamaroneck, N.Y... Na Zdrovia Sig, are you still flying those Navy Jets?

DAN and **PAT GRABEL** skied Whistler/ Blackcomb in British Columbia, Canada and agree that it is probably the number one ski terrain in North America. After you get off the gondola at 7,000 feet, you look around for a full 360 degrees and see snow-capped peaks. And, if you wish, chair lifts take you even higher. April skies were sunny all week and the temperature around 60. Before coming home they visited Vancouver and Victoria, which is a little bit of England transported to the Pacific Northwest. Pat recently returned from a round-the-world trip with her 28 year old British Niece. Hope to have an excerpt from her slide show titled "Travels With Auntie"... **DICK WILLIAMS** says he postponed a road trip to Washington State to make the LaMagnette luncheon and he's glad he did. Seeing old chums helped revive memories of his 25 years at 30 Rock... **AL FRISCH** will be making a trip to the altar. He's just gotten engaged to Rachel. His main interest, hobby-wise, is still photography... **CARL ROHRER** says that during the NYC building service employees strike his days were enriched with new experiences as doorman and trash disposer... **DICK SWICKER** spends his hours in his shop doing wood turning and cabinet making. He's skillful enough to teach that craft and has taught at home and in Europe...

Pge 4.

Looking for the **SOBEL's**?



Irv & Mollie Sobel (at La Maganette)

MOLLIE and **IRVING** spend their winters in Hollywood, Fla. and their summers in Smallwood, N.Y. (Better get out the Atlas for that one--Smallwood?)...

GLADYS and **JOE KOLB** put a few miles on the old buggy with their winter travels covering 12,000 miles. Starting in Florida, they enjoyed a reunion in Deerfield Beach, then on to Palm Harbor for a month with **JOHN RIC**. Also saw **JIM BLANEY** and wife **MARY**. Then back in the buggy and southwestward to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras, stops in Houston, San Antonio, the Mexican coast of Texas, El Paso, Tuscon, Phoenix and Palm Springs where they spent a night with **SCOTTY McCARTNEY** and wife. In Beaumont the Kolbs found **SAM ROTH** and **MITZIE** in good health. The trip continued on to LA and Frisco where their son lives in the East Bay community of Albany. Enroute home they stopped at Death Valley. (Well, the Kolbs should be able to come up with a good report on eateries and gas station lavatories from coast to coast!) Doesn't anybody stay home? No! Gosh - the working stiff's are probably eating their hearts out by the time they reach this far down in the PN People column... **MARJORIE SHIELDS** can tell a few stories of early TV. She worked with us at WPIX before 1950. Anyway, Marjorie is on the road again. She's going to China in June and going to an Elderhostel in western North Carolina at the end of July. In September she's flying to LA to take a two week cruise through the Panama Canal. During the little time she spends at Boca Raton she's a member of the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee. In addition to Peacock North, she belongs to NBC Fla. Retirees... Announcer **FRED COLLINS** reports he's "still doing the same old thing and loving it". He's doing a 24 part audio tape, I think for Chinese tourism. Fred and Margot take off twice a year to recharge their batteries... **JOHN SCUOPO** has been doing consultancy work for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF and was Media Relations Consultant for the United Nation's 40th anniversary commemoration. Still working, John is with J.Crew Group, Inc., the mail order and retail clothiers in their loss prevention service (hmmm, loss prevention? Sounds like a euphemism for employee pilfering. Speaking of euphemisms, which seem to be a part of our advertising culture, can you have a pre-owned spouse, like having a pre-owned car?)... **JOHN** and **SHIRLEY DONAHUE** have done extensive mountain climbing in Switzerland and England (Mountains in England?) They want to know if other PN members would like to read a travel column with hotel and other recommendations. They...cont'd pge 5.

PEOPLE cont'd fm pge 4.

would like other travelers to contribute info to the column too. Good idea. The Donohues live in Wayne, N.J. so phone them direct if you'd like to contribute to that idea... John, you write it, we'll print it.... One guest at LaMagnetite described himself as an interloper. **BERNARD JACOBS** left NBC in 1959 and has been with CBS since 1965, and still there. He's hoping to retire soon and start a CBS version of Peacock North. Maybe they'll call it the Bloodshot Eye...

Around 1960's, from a wedding pix -L to R: Frank DeRienzo, yes, that's our Pres. FDR. then ???, then comes the "INTERLOPER" (Bernard Jacobs), Vinnie DiPietro and ???



CARMINE and **LUCY ROCCO** have been doing a good bit of travel, says he, but gives no details so you'll have to guess the rest... **MICHAEL** and **MADALYN GILLIGAN** are living in Lyme, N.J. and made it down to the Big Apple for LaMagnetite... **FLORENCE RING** is going to California for her nephew's wedding. Nephew is **VINCE DIPIETRO**'s middle son Donald... And now -- what has **ARTHUR KENT** the first of NBC's three Arthur Kents been doing in retirement. Well, he says he's gotten some mail intended for the A.K. who saw duty in the Persian Gulf. Never one to be idle, Arthur still involved with many many, many affiliations, including the Will Rogers institute and Hospital in White Plains and can assist PN members who need its facilities free of charge (as former workers in the entertainment industry) For that, call him at 718-479-3460. Kent founded the Labor News Network and he hopes with newly awarded backing it will be in operation later this year. **FRANK MCULLOUGH** writes from Mt. Vernon, Ohio to Frank Vierling: Thanks for sending PN Newsletter. Needless to say, I have sent in my dues. I have 65 acres here, mostly pasture lands and woods, where there is quite a herd of white tail deer. Last week we had 16 grazing near the back door. During the summer I rent it to a local farmer and have 40 cows out there....

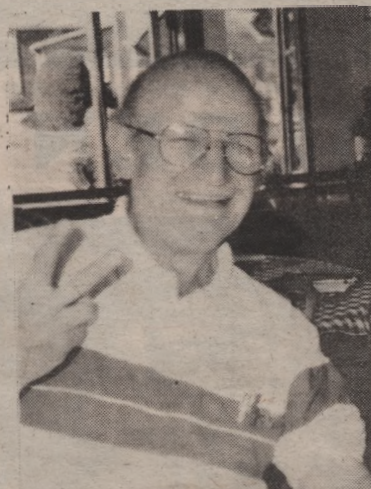
VINCE DePIETRO's just returned from L.A. where they did what parents do, at their son Donald's wedding.....



Vinnie Di... at Picco

MURRAY VECCHIO told me that while he was attending the NBC 25 year Club in Dec., that burglars had entered his house and walked away with a 300 lb. safe. No one saw or heard any thing. Of course Murray lost many valuables. He and friend tried to recreate what one would have to do to, to take the safe away, and do it quietly and unobtrusively. Then he realized it couldn't be done easily, noiselessly, nor without someone seeing it. Now the thought occurred to him, was anyone else robbed on that night that might have attended the bash? Was it a cue to the burglars that Murray was going to be away that night, being listed as an attendee? ?... Anyway, Murray would like to hear from anyone else with a similar misfortune that eve....

Aaronoff : CANCER FREE !



Morty Aaronoff

Morty Aaronoff called the other day and before he told me the story, I could tell by his voice that something terrific was up. And so it was. Months ago I was laid up in bed with a temperature, aches and erratic random pains all over. Finally went to doc. Said I had an infected prostate. Antibiotics soon relieved the symptoms. Knowing Mort's case, talked to Mort about his problem and received a full report. His was diagnosed as cancer.

He had the usual things done that they do, but nothing was happening. He decided to go to the clinic in the Bahamas. This clinic was under fire when in the states by the usual powers that be that seem not to want to have a cure available. The clinic moved to the Islands. Even there the U.S. caused them grief. Finally tho, after litigation, the clinic was reopened. The story is more complicated to go into detail here. Morty went there, spent 6 weeks visiting the clinic for tests and treatment.

Upon returning to the U.S. he was to take 4 different protein shots averaging to 9 -10 shots a day , a la diabetics.. After some time period, Morty goes back for a re-evaluation stay..

This week Mort went to his New York Doc, and he said it was **VERY UNUSUAL**, but **he couldn't find any sign of any cancer**. How's dem for apples ? ? ?

Mort thought that since so many of the male gender in their 60's are prone to this problem, he'd like to tell everyone of his good news. If anyone wants more info, Mort is an encyclopedia, and is willing to share.

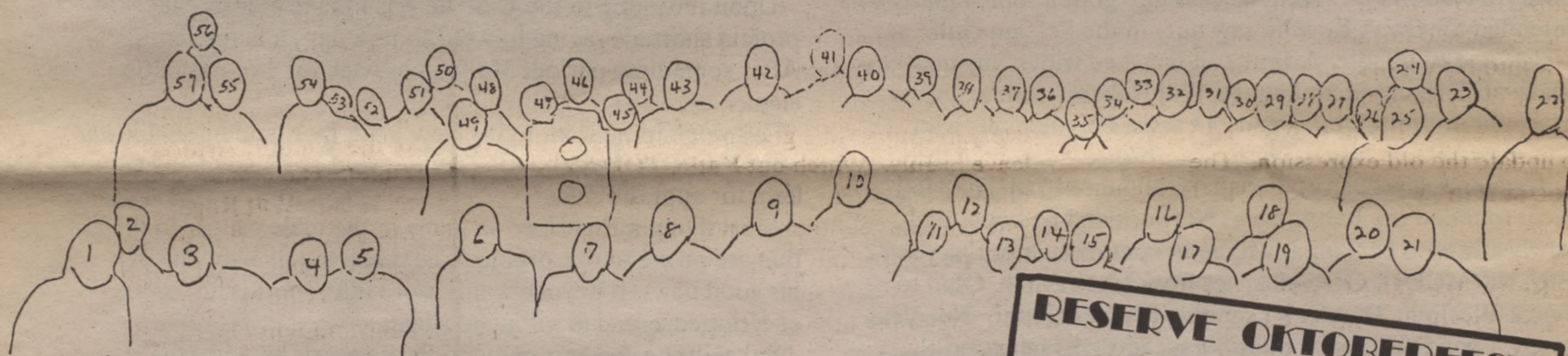
To celebrate, Mort is going to Paris to visit his son, who lives there...Say, Why don't I celebrate something? My son lives in Hawaii... Heino



In 1952, **DAVE HUBBY**, with his "state of the art" Ham Rig. (Later bought By John McGinty)

**P.N.ers, Why Not JOIN THE
FLORIDA RETIREES also !**

" GOLDEN OLDIES "



N.B.C. T.V. STUDIO 3H , 1946

**RESERVE OKTOBERFEST
TIX - NOW**

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Art Poppele | 16. Frank Macardle | 31. George Nixon | 46. Ed Read |
| 2. Tom Smiley | 17. Hank Folkerts | 32. Carlos Clark | 47. F. Wankle |
| 3. Jim Davis | 18. Bob Clarke | 33. Hank Bomberger | 48. H. Gronberg |
| 4. Heino Ripp | 19. Bob Fraser | 34. Stan Peck | 49. Al Protzman |
| 5. Ed Hoffmeister | 20. A. Hammerschmidt | 35. Ed Costello | 50. A. Stephenson |
| 6. Frank Burns | 21. Ollie Fulton | 36. Harry Getting | 51. Tom Lyman |
| 7. Joe Conn | 22. Allen Walsh | 37. Geo Neuman | 52. Vernon Duke |
| 8. Ray Monfort | 23. Ed Stoltzenberger | 38. Lou West | 53. Don Pike |
| 9. Reid Davis | 24. Russ DeBaun | 39. Herb DeGroot | 54. Al Henderson |
| 10. Sid Davidson | 25. Hank Gurin | 40. Dusty Rhoades | 55. Cliff Paul |
| 11. Alf Jackson | 26. John Canevari | 41. Carl Cabasin | 56. Joe Carpenter |
| 12. Jack Burrell | 27. Ed Wade | 42. Gene Hand | 57. Russ Neis |
| 13. Harold See | 28. Chas. Townsend | 43. Doc Shelby | |
| 14. Lou Climent | 29. George Graham | 44. Dorm Albert | |
| 15. Bill States | 30. Noah Sprecher | 45. Dudley Goodale | |

This was the staff of NBC-TV in 1946, and many of these folk were in the Development Group, doing TV operations on broadcast days; headed up by Doc Shelby and George Nixon. Andy Hammerschmidt # 20. (who was the Engineering VP at one point), was kind to send me this photo. The studio was about one half the size of 3K today. Many of these men started and developed practical TV in the form we see it today. heino, [#4]

Dan Grabel

Insurance: Michael Gartner, the President of NBC News, enjoys a little more insurance than any of the scribes who work for him. He's holding three jobs:

- 1) Prexy,
- 2) he's Editor and Publisher of the Daily Tribune in Ames Iowa, and
- 3) he writes a column for the Gannet News Service.

Gartner, himself, made headlines in Journalism news recently when he appeared on ABC's Nightline show and blurted out the name of the alleged rape victim in the Palm Beach Kennedy family compound incident. That network has a policy of not identifying victims. WNBC, the local O&O however, has stated that it will not make such revelations and, in fact, Gabe Pressman blasted Gartner during his weekly commentary show.

Dr. Art Ulene, a fixture on the TODAY Show since 1975 has not been renewed. Ulene worked out of LA and frequently flew into New York for his on-camera intros. The show says it now wants a medical expert based in New York. So, to update the old expression, "The Doctor is in", will now read "The Doctor is out"!

Al Roker, the WNBC-TV weatherman who frequently appears on TODAY, is said to have a contract worth one million bucks. Looking over his fat (nothing personal intended, Al) schedule, NBC would seem to be getting its money's worth. In addition to the local show and daily TODAY, he does features for Sunday Today, plus specials called "Take a Break..with Al Roker". Its a long way from his first job as a teen-ager in Brooklyn bagging chickens in a cold room at a super market.

In the "Anything to Keep Afloat" department we note that WRC-TV, NBC's Washington O&O, is now competing with itself in the news programs. It is providing a nightly newscast to a local cable channel at 7:30 PM daily.

Tom Shales, the Washington Post TV columnist, commented recently on NBC moving its Sky-Com news operation from Manhattan to North Carolina. He quoted Michael Gartner who said "it was not because it was easy to set up a non-union operation there, but because N.C. is easily accessible by air and has

excellent communication satellite paths"! Bob Wright, NBC's President, says more network news Bureaus will be consolidated.

Katherine Couric, Deborah Norville's replacement on TODAY quickly showed her drawing power when the show's ratings increased shortly after her arrival. In just 12 years, she's gone from desk assistant at the ABC Washington Bureau to the top of Network News - not bad! Going up the ladder with Katherine; 2nd job Assignment Editor at CNN, then associate producer on "Take Two", a daily CNN show and a political correspondent on same. From 1984 to 1986 she was general assignment reported at WTVJ, Miami, and then at WRC. She's won an EMMY and an AP award for local reporting. In July, 1989, she became NBC's Pentagon correspondent and then while working as TODAY'S National Correspondent, she won her epaulet in the Persian Gulf. Getting the first interview with Gen'l Norman Schwarzkopf after the 100 hour war gave her a boost. And now she's graduated to the big bucks and a chance to rise at 5AM every morning. She goes on maternity leave in July. Watch out Katie, TODAY might bring in another rising star during your sojourn, but then your agent must have thought about that.

NBC is hoping to take a bigger leap into cable operations. A bankruptcy court has approved NBC's bid for the Financial News Network over competing offers from Dow Jones and Group W. The price, \$115,000,000. NBC plans to combine FNN and CNBC, the Consumer News and Business Channel (sounds like Washington in the 1930's when they started inventing all those alphabetical designations for government bureaus). (We're indebted to newsman Roy J. Silver for much of the research. Roy's a diligent searcher and chronicler, dating back to his days on the Bill Stern radio sports show. He now lives up at Mohegan Lake, Westchester.)

Brandon Tartikoff, NBC's longtime wunderkind of prime time programming, may be anklng the net because of burnout after six years in that post. Looks like has Tartikoff moving to Paramount Pictures as president and CEO. At 30 Rock the story is officially denied. We at PN wish you the best, like you have given us.

Did You Know ?

By Dick Dudley

Did you know that the first TV test pattern was a Felix the Cat doll and that after that, real girl models stood in front of the camera so that flesh tones could be balanced.

Did you know why NBC's two networks were called Red and Blue? When the engineers mapped out the routes for each of them they used red and blue pens. Hence, the colorful appellations.

Did you know that the National Broadcasting Company was formed in the year 1926? It's key stations were WEAf and WJZ in N.Y.C.. Merlin H. Ayles-worth, NBC's head, introduced an inaugural program from the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The talent included: Will Rogers, Mary Garden, Eddie Cantor, Weber and Fields and the Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company. Orchestras of George Olsen, Vincent Lopez, Ben Bernie, B.A. Rolfe, Walter Damrosch, the NY Philharmonic, the Goldman Band. And all that talent cost the new network \$25,000.

Did you know that the first radio theme song was "Hello, hello, the RKO is sending out this message so the work will know"? It was written by Tom Kennedy for the "RKO Radio Hour".

Did you know that the first radio broadcast in America took place on May 13, 1914 when phonograph music was relayed from Wanamaker's department store in New York to the Wanamaker store in Philadelphia?

**"Spring Classic" PHOTOS
in NEXT ISSUE**

It was like old home week on a day late in February when six, count em, six Ex-NBCers turned up on the set for the production of a 30 minute video for educational use by doctors and lawyers. The locale was Family Court, just off Foley Square in NYC.

The former NBC X members of the cast included:

Peter Hackes (announcers)

Bill Hanrahan (announcers)

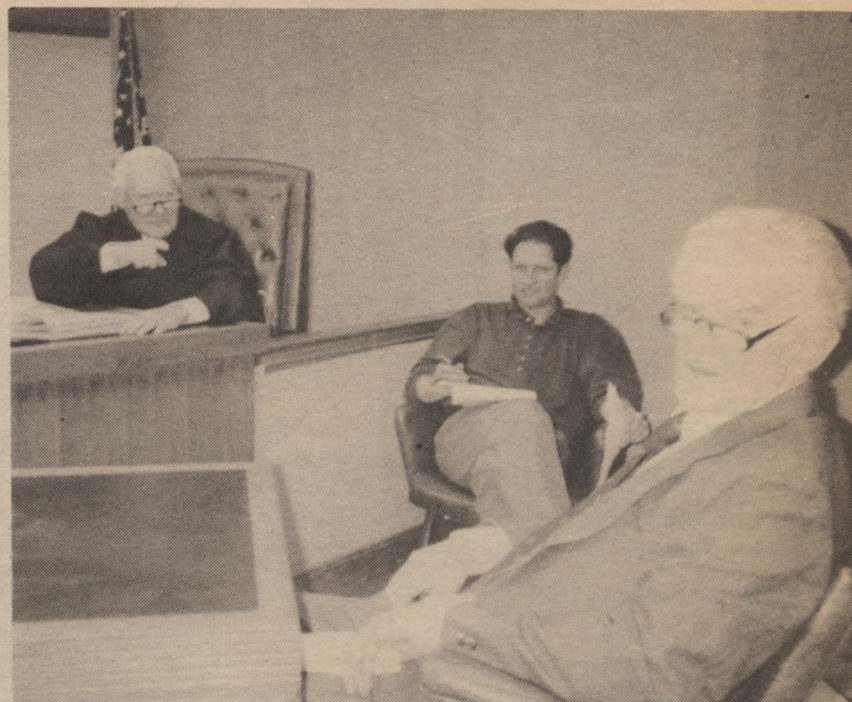
Shelley Dobbins (radio Director)

Dan Grabel (news producer/writer)

Pat Grabel (assoc. producer-Prime of Your Life)

Mike Klepper Associates (radio Director)

Hackes, still in Washington, is very busy with a daily interview show for the AARP, voicing commercials and an occasional film. Hanrahan, in Connecticut, still does some voice overs and films. Dobbins, who left the net many years ago, does acting, voice-overs, and some writing. He does lyrics too, and may be remembered for the million record seller "Non Dimenticar", (Don't Forget). Among other radio shows, Dobbins directed the "Bill Cullen Show".



Dan Grabel as Judge, Bill Hanrahan as Lawyer



Dan Grabel as Judge, Peter Hackes as Doctor



Dan as Judge, Shelly Dobbins at right.

NEW HAM NET FOR NORTHERN AREA

40 METERS: WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

10:30 a.m. 7242 Kc.

W2SNM - DAVE HUBBY
as NET CONTROL

CALL IN AND SAY Hi !



MINI LUNCH at PICCO

Plan to attend the Next informal **Mini Lunch** at the popular Picco Lissimo Restaurant, on Rte 9, Fort Lee, N.J., one mile South of the Geo Wash Bridge, **TUESDAY August 6th at 12:30 pm.**

'If you're experiencing the same problem I am -

**SEND IN YOUR OKTOBERFEST
RESERVATION NOW !
Before you forget !**

From Piccolissimo

Pge 9.

(A good number of times a year about 40 men and women gather at Fort Lee, N.J restaurant for an informal lunch. It's good chow, good comederie and here are a few notes from the most recent feast.)



Viewing from left to right --->
Pat Wolf- Mildred Dolan- Ida Masone-Dorothea Delannoy-
Helen Thienpont- Lois Vierling- Peg Peterson- Florence Ring

From the ladies:

FLORENCE RING attended the NBCFla Ret. gala at Port St.Lucie and reports that the company was warm and friendly, but the weather was cold! All sent regards northward. Five of the ladies were there for the first time, and became friends immediately. **LUCY ROCCO** says she and spouse spend much of their time planning trips. Since retirement, they have visited Paris, London, Hawaii, Las Vegas, California, Florida, West Virginia, and North Carolina and they hope to get to Alaska this summer. (By my count, that leaves 43 states to go.) They say they had a great time and hope to come again...



LOIS VIERLING (shown here with **PEG PETERSON** who does a lot for PN, but is quiet about it) looking forward to another summer in Maine, at their hideaway, until the next OKTOBERFEST...



HELEN THIENPONT (seen here with hubby Marcel) missed her winter cross country skiing due to the flu but looks forward to visits to Elderhostels. Enjoyed the mini lunch and wants to return to Picco....



IRV MESSING says he sat down next to **GEORGE COX** from the Brooklyn studios, who he had never met before, and reminisced about the Brown Bros. and the late Jerry Smith. Good memories, especially about the time when Bobby Brown pushed a cake into the face of Frank Scotti, the studio supervisor. Then he retired to Florida.



Irv brought along **EDDIE BAND** to share the memories. (or do I see two ?)



We scared **JOHN NORELL**, (left) with the flash, and interrupted **DAN GRABEL**'s pasta, with **GENE FRISCH** AND **BOB BUTLER** watching the b.g. (judging from the headroom, guess we need a thru the lens view finder, sorry).

**Want 20 % Off
DISNEY WORLD
& DISNEYLAND TIX ?**



Frank DeRienzo

Why does everyone look so serious? This is supposed to be fun!



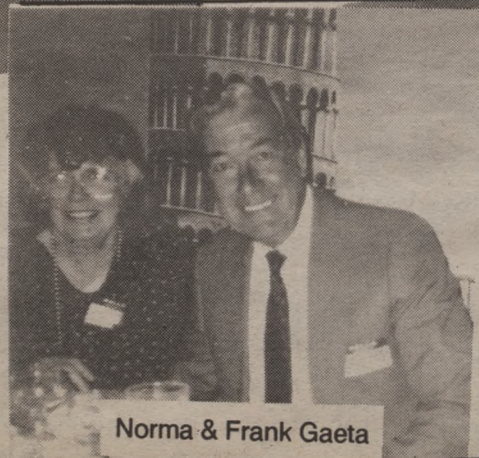
Darr Grabel



Pat Grabel



Heino Ripp



Norma & Frank Gaeta



Pete Peterson



Phil Falcone : Horace Ruiz



Frank MacArdle

Rosemary Quigley McPhillips



Bill Flood Gene Martin Pat Flood



Mildred & Jack Dolan, Mrs. Don Boyle, Marge McGlynn



Cathy Greene Ed Newman Gloria Clyne Joan Gifford

THE GOOD NEWS!--PEACOCK NORTH has had an increase in membership again. The roster now tops 500 ! Needless to say we're very pleased. In the span of just under four years, we have grown from our starting group of thirty charter members to a number exceeding our loftiest expectations. Costs in operating too have increased, along with servicing newsletters and get-together events. We are looking forward to our next event, the **OKTOBERFEST..**

Contracts have just been concluded with the **RAMADA INN, CLIFTON N.J.** and costs there have risen too. We have held prices to a really good bargain for the excellent way in which they accommodate our needs, including a delicious food service. We are hoping for a large turnout to enjoy these events while pricing opportunities remain.



Heino Ripp Ariane Mautner Mary Springfield Pete Peterson

In keeping in touch with NBC, at a luncheon conference which H.Ripp and I attended, we discussed with **MARY STRINGFIELD** (Atty.) Dir. Benefits, and **ARIANE MAUTNER**, Administrator, Emp. Svcs. the upcoming "NBC 25 YEAR" inductees club affair for **Tuesday DEC.3,1991**. They brought to our attention a change in this years event.

PEOPLE

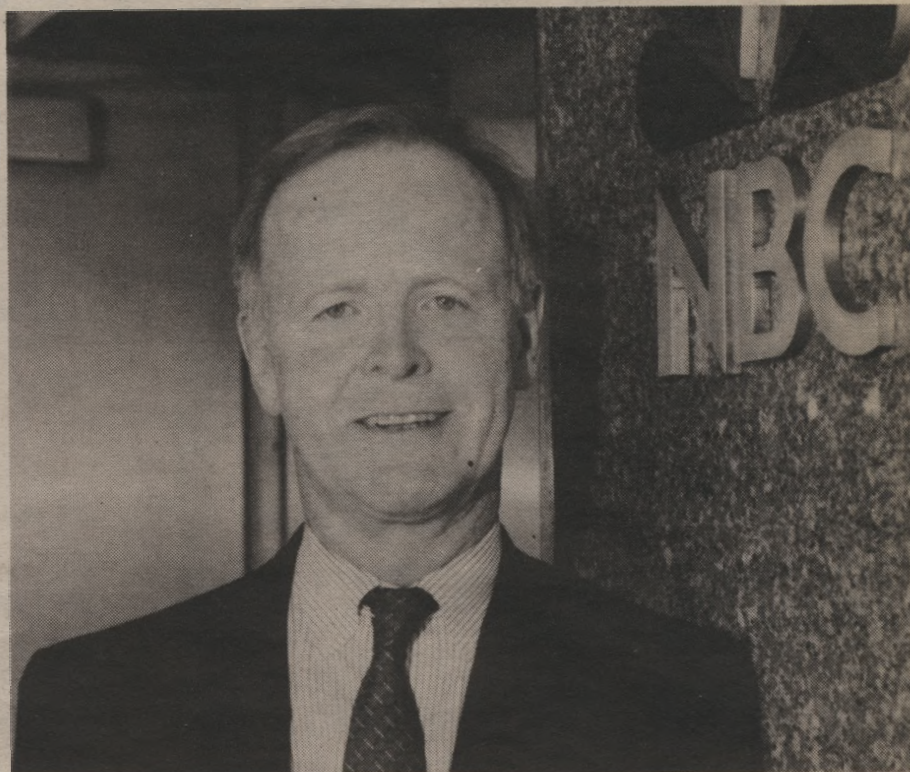
JACK MARSHALL managed a rugged trip to Maganette. [He lives 3 blocks away]. He writes that he may be the only director who had seven TDs on his crew. He was doing a Kine promo and scheduling had hurriedly given him:

TD, Hank Bomberger
Cameras, Jack Coffey,
Stod Dentz,
Heino Ripp
Audio: O. Tamburri
Video: Frank DeRienzo
Utility: Jerry Cudlipp
Extra: Gary Iorio

Somehow it wasn't Gone With The Wind, but they got successfully in the can.

TEDDY NATHANSON wrote a nice letter saying he enjoys reading PN Newsletter. Currently working doing sports in Europe, for TV living in NYC.

Did you know that the first well known radio evangelist was a woman? In 1931, Sister Aimee Semple McPherson (who became known for her romantic escapades) turned to the new medium. For a while her local station operated on one wavelength but she found that reception would be better a little further up the dial. The FCC stepped in and complained that no Sabbath license was issued for her illegal operation. Sister Aimee said, "God needs no license to operate".



ED SCANLON, VP of Emp. Svcs. declares he would like **RETIREEES** to have the continued opportunity to attend this annual affair. The usual place for this event had been the famous **PLAZA HOTEL**. In the light of the **TRUMP EMPIRE** situation, the cost basis for the **PLAZA** event has been disproportionately increased beyond NBC'S budget. This added cost would disallow retirees to participate. **ED SCANLON'S** aforementioned committee thought it best to keep **PEACOCK NORTH** members able to attend by holding the affair on home turf in studio 8H. There, costs could be held in check, and all would be able to attend. So for now, the **TRUMP** card for NBC is to bring us all home to where it all began.

PEACOCK NORTH recognizes this effort to keep continuity with retirees.

NBC graciously invited those who attended our **LA MAGANETTE** outing in **APRIL** to take the NBC guided tour through the new studio plant facilities. Over 75 PN'ers took the tour and enjoyed the refreshments NBC provided. (Thanks, Ed Scanlon et al, on that one too!).

We will continue to have some interesting events in the future, (The Museum for Broadcasting in NYC, a possible) let us know your ideas.

73's. Pete

PEACOCK NORTH Calendar of Events 1991

1. TUES AUG 6 1991

MINI LUNCH - Ft. Lee, N.J. 12:30 PM

2. SUND OCT 20, 1991

OKTOBERFEST , CLIFTON, N.J.

3. TUES DEC 3, 1991

NBC 25 YEAR CLUB, N.Y.C.

4. TUES DEC 10, 1991

MINI LUNCH - FT.LEE, N.J. 12:30 pm



Here **BILL GOETZ** and **RUSS ROSS** seem to be tickling each other. Just kidding, my two buddies are laughing cause they're enjoying the company and it even looks like "they ate it all up". I expect to see Bill at the Barcelona Olympics next year, and have an assignment like we had in Korea.



At Left Buddy Shadel & Billy Dellanoy(R). Buddy's heading for San Diego to see the Kids, and Billy just laughing and having a good time. That's why we're here.

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



" GOLDEN OLDIES "

The "All Star Review" crew (early 50's)

Standing Left to right:

ERNIE DeROSA, FLORENCE RING, VINNIE DiPIETRO

Seated, L to R, **LEON DOBBIN, MORT EATON, ?, JIMMY DURANTE, ARNIE DICK, MARIO CIARLO, GENE MARTIN, BILL FLOOD.**

RADIO DAZE

(Radio newsman Don Blair has gathered old cronies for the past three years to get together in NYC to rehash old memories and has sent along some notes. Here are some excerpts).

First off, he says he had the impression that 99 percent of the old Peacocks never experienced the "agony and the ecstasy of working in radio". Of course, Don is way off on his percentage, but in the end, remember we are all sharing memories of the Golden Days, when it really, really was NBC and 30 Rock was an American-owned enclave. And the real GE building was over on Lexington Avenue !

Don organized and held the first bash at the Ho Ho restaurant in the Times-Life Building (and there's another newsroom that has changed) His original "memorial to the good old days" attracted a mob of radio types, and even slimming Chinese food made the space a bit tight. He moved it over to the Warwick, and 130 stalwarts showed up last year. In mid-April '91. The crowd was a bit smaller, but they attracted many first-timers. Among the vets from far and wide: Alan and Jeannie Walden (She's nee Houston and the radio net) up from Baltimore. Jim Holton in from the Pennsylvania hills, and from closer in:

Hank Miles, Charley Garment, I Herb Gordon, Fitzgerald Smith, Ed Gough, Ed Hanna, Russ Ward, Ray Weiss and Laurier Wilson (Wilson's widow) up from Maryland. With a little more networking, Don figures they would have had even more.

He points out that many of the New York staff moved to Washington when Westwood took over the network. Don says, "We gather to commemorate a network that does not exist anymore, regardless of the name still being used. And we realize we once had a network the likes of which will never be seen again". ((Say, who could forget those monitor weekend reports. Rattlesnake hunts in Texas, searching for alligators in Florida's Okefenoke swamp and counting Queen Elizabeth's swans in London's Serpentine. Heck, I recall trying to sell reports on silversmiths in Taxco, Mexico, and the divers jumping off that high perch in Acapulco.))

Don Blair remains active at his home-studio in Redding, Ct. using "an indestructible old RCA T-21 tape recorder" for voice-over material for numerous corporate clients. But he will be forsaking Connecticut next year for Venice, Florida, and a layout adjacent to a country club fairway. Then he plans to join the Florida Retirees.

Thank You

Pge 13.

Yes, thank YOU ALL, for all the nice things you have said about the Newsletter. I appreciate the use of the many photographs that we've received. We can't use all of them for many reasons like we can't put out a paper with 40 pages; some pix exposures don't lend them to copying and so forth. But keep those boxtops coming... On your next trip, make sure the camera is with you, for ex. take a shot with the Eiffel Tower in the bg., or swimming nude in the Taj Mahal Pools - something where a long caption is not needed... Thanks to **Gene Martin, Pete Peterson, Florence Ring, Bernie Jacobs, Vinnie DiPietro, Doc Potter and Dan Grabel** for the use of pix in this issue.

Thanks to **Gene Martin and Janice Reiter** for helping me with the typing. They put it material onto a disc, and my computer plays with it a bit from there. A big help.

Thanks to **Frankie DeRienzo** for accepting the Presidential spot. You'll learn to love it Frank, we'll even buy you Henny Younman's short, bah rhump bump, joke book.

Thanks to **Phil Falcone** for his past work as our secretary, and being himself, a nice guy. No one gets money, but thanks we have, a bagful.

Thanks to **Tony Rokosz** who keeps all the Amateur radio guys together from his mountaintop in New Mexico . Tony left NBC 23 years ago and this month celebrates his 81st birthday! He had a blackout while driving a short time ago, so he went through a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (I think it's called) scan and all seems to be OK. It sure sounds good to hear **W5RFO** come booming in at about 10 am every weekday over the radio. (7am his time - imagine! and he's retired...)

Thanks **Dave Hubby**, for doing on forty meters what Tony does on 20 meters. He's on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. **Dave** and spouse **Rita** celebrated their **FIFTIETH** anniversary near the end of May! Who said Ham Radio and marriage don't mix ?

Lastly and not leastly, Thanks to Christina for putting up with my intrusion of the computer time and demonstrating the patience of Job while PN's newsletter is taking shape.

Hope you can read the small print, but it takes up less space... Heino

NBC-ers

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

(Well a lot of the vets are retired, but not all. If you are aware of former NBC people still in the business, drop us a line

PEOPLE: **Walt Himmelberg** [TV MCR, & now Colorado] writes: We were doing the Show of Shows. In the control rm, at the rear of the house, Max Liebman, the director, TD Ripp; Ray Barrett the video man, was down in a hole in front of them. Max went out, brought back 3 coffee's, forgetting video. Walt watched video crawl out, unnoticed, and brought back a coffee for himself. Then in a loud voice said, "Yes Master control, cream and sugar". With this Max peered down, as Ray pulled a Patch cord from his coffee, saying thanks MCR. Max almost fainted. Back then TV wasn't the only area technology had shot ahead... James Melton was an opera star of the 40's, a tall handsome man, who had his own TV show from the International Theater. He even had Dr. Frank Black and many NBC Symphony musicians was his "house orchestra". He was rather set in his ways as many succesful stars are. During rehearsal he sang Old Man River. One of the lyrics was "White man boss", plus other such lines. Censors in those days were very jittery in the climate of this new "Television" thing, and insisted James leave out such words. The show went on, and so did all of the "offensive" words, and you can imagine all the noise and turmoil. In the 70's, seems like we went through the same scene on Sat. Nite Live. You think anything changes ? Different words, different "stars", different censors, same noise, before and after..

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cameron Swayze | CBS Radio |
| C.D. Jaco (Now Charles Jaco) | CNN |
| Norma Quarles | CNN |
| Charles Hazinski | Univ of Georgia, Athens |
| Bob Cain | CNN |
| Peter Hackes | Mutual Radio, AARP |
| Mike Maus | CBS Radio |
| Ed Newman | PBS Docs |
| Alan Walden | WBAL |
| Bob Wogan | Mutual Radio |
| Ron Nessen | Westwood One Radio |
| George Newell | Entertainment Tonight |
| John Hart | World Monitor TV |
| Steve Delaney | World Monitor TV |
| Bill Chesleigh | World Monitor TV |
| Tom Cheatham | World Monitor TV |
| Mary Lockhart | World Monitor TV |
| Peter Kent | World Monitor TV |

Silent Microphones

LEM TUCKER

Lem Tucker, who was one of the first black network reporter/correspondent, joined NBC News in 1965, and later worked for ABC, CBS and WOR-TV, died of a liver ailment at the Washington (DC) Home and Hospice on March 2nd. Lem was 52 years old and had been ill since 1988 when he took a long term disability departure from CBS. He is survived by his wife, the former Renay Resenblum, who once worked for NBC, a daughter and a granddaughter.

Lem joined NBC as a page, came into the News Department as a desk assistant, and was assigned to the bureau in Vietnam during the war. He rose to become assistant bureau chief, and then returned to New York in 1967 to become a local reporter. In 1970, he moved to WOR-TV to become director of News and Public Affairs. In 1972 he joined ABC as a network correspondent and worked the political conventions of 1972 and 1976. In 1977 he joined CBS. Perhaps his biggest assignment was covering Ronald Reagan when, on March 30, 1981, he was shot as he left a Washington Hotel after a speech. During his career he won two Emmys for excellence in television reporting.

MARTY GALLAGHER

Marty had been the News Division's director of News Program Budgets during a career at WNBC which spanned 30 years. He had suffered a heart attack and stroke in 1985 and was living in Broomfield, Colorado at the time of his death, February 22nd. Marty was 69 years old. Other assignments included Facilities Manager and Unit Manager on the space program at Cape Canaveral and in Houston and in the advertising department as a business manager. **JOHN McGINTY** Retired T.D. died March 6, at home from cirrhosis of the liver. John was born in Scotland went to Fla. in 1984. He was commissioner of the Dix Hills Fire Dept. and forever afterwards was known as "Commish". He is survived by his wife Mary, son Lawrence, daughters Loreen and Maryann.

We shall all remember the Commish for his humor, especially his limericks. He was a delightful person. We will all miss John.

JACK ANDERSON

Jack died on April 9, 1991. He worked for many years at NBC as a sound effects man both on radio and TV. Services were held in Maywood, N.J.

GEORGE HAYES

George passed away in April from an

inoperable brain tumor. He resided in Port Washington, N.Y. He worked for many years in the electronic area. His services were used at many of the conventions and prestige programs ie Miss America etc. He had recently retired.

RUDOLPH WEISENBACH

Rudy passed away in London, Ontario on Dec. 30. after a heart attack. He was 83. on Dec. 14th. He is survived by his wife, Trudy, daughter Norma, Clare and son Robert.

Rudy worked on the secret Norden Bombsight during WW II. After working in the NBC Model Shop for 25 years, then still worked in machine shops until he was 77 or so. His wife Trudy writes that Rudy always enjoyed the Newsletter and would read it from cover to cover as soon as he received it.

BRAD CRANDALL

A talk show host for WNBC Radio Brad died in Burbank, Calif. around the middle of March of kidney failure. He was 62 years old, resided in Redondo Beach.

Brad attended Millsaps College, Miss., was an announcer for some radio stations. Came to WNBC in 1964 and stayed for ab't six years, then freelanced as narrator and announcer. He is survived in L.A. by son Mark.

CLIFF PAUL

Died on May 29th in Florida. Cliff had worked in New York in the early TV years. Later he left NBC, and recently caught up with retirees in Florida again. I have no further info.

Last Issue, we noted the passing of John Csizmadia. We regret that we don't always get information to pass on to you..

Linda Hoogland, John's daughter gave an eulogy for her dad, which George Kiyak obtained and Buddy Shadel gave me. Here is part of it.

Linda began with "we gather here not to mourn our loss, but to celebrate the long, rich life of this man who is my father". John was born in Hungary, 86 years ago. He remembered migrating thru Ellis Island to the U.S. His dad died when John was 14 and had to quit school to help support the family. Intense curiosity led him to reading, developed his quiet intellect.

His love for music led him to learn the violin, saxophone and clarinet. Then on to several bands, some on cruise ships in the Caribbean and So. America. After WW II, John was playing and singing with a dance band in a St. Paul, Minn. hotel. From there to radio, with KSTP, when

Pge 14.

Linda was born. In 1950, he joined NBC, worked there for 20 years as a sound technician, cameraman (Hit Parade) and finally into videotape. John was also a "Ham Radio" operator, loved photography developing his own pictures.

In his later years, John still played the violin; for the Ridgewood Symphony, played sax with other bands and also played - golf. His church became his second home. He truly knew what it was to be a Christian, he always put the other person first. And, Linda continues, "those who loved him shall never forget him".

Most of you probably never knew this quiet fellow, especially this other side of the man. Having worked with him many years, He somehow radiated that there was more to him than we were seeing. I too, shall always remember our friend, Johnny Csiz. [H.]

[N.B.C] Golf "Spring Classic" a Rousing Smash !

A fabulous golf outing on June 28th, was held by the committee: BILL KAWAKARIS, BOBBIE BROWN, JOHN THOMAS, STEVE SKORUPKA and ED YOUNGBLOOD. It was called the NBC 1991 Spring Golf Classic, and everyone received a nice white golf cap to prove it. The outing was held at the "Philip Rotella Golf Course" in Haverstraw, N.Y.

There was a huge turnout, including many retirees. It was fun watching them trying to pound the cover off that little white ball - couldn't help bringing a smile to your face. -And Phil Hymes turned out to be a regular Arnold Palmer ---well almost.

The committee was upset they hadn't made up a "Senior Trophy", but will definitely have one for the next fall outing, which will take place on Long Island, at Spring Lake Golf Course at Middle Island, L.I., hopefully on Oct. 1st.

The committee is to be congratulated on such a well organized and classy event. There was food and drinks after the 9th hole, and a very satisfying steak dinner and open bar after the round, with lots of prizes. The duffers to the pro's, all had a great time.

Good luck on your next outing and we all hope to be there with you... You guys did a Great Job.

Gene Martin

" GOLDEN OLDIES "



" THE BIG PAYOFF " ,. STUDIO 6B

Bott row L to R: FRANK DeRIENZO, NEIL HOLLAND, FRANK HILL, VINNIE DIPIETRO, AL SIELSKI, VINCE PENTA, CLIFF PAUL, MIKE EGAN, BERNIE JACOBS, SY ROTH

Middle row L to R: CLAIRE CALLAN, model. model, RANDY MERRRIMAN (producer), BESS MEYERSON, STAFF & MODELS.

BACK ROW: STAFF

HANDY MAN "MENCH" WHAT'S THAT ??

Irving Messing, a PN member. Irv spent most of his working life in television studios setting up electrical lighting for he likes of Jackie Gleason, Ed Sullivan, Perry Como; staying up all day and night doing a "clocker" setting up a show, then running the dimmer board on the show with the precision of a Toscanini musician; retired recently from the TODAY Show.

Today you will find him working hard for a different clientele.



Irving and spouse Dolly (seen above enjoying LaMaganette funfest) are unusual, happy volunteers who were instrumental in initiating the "Handy Mench" program at Jewish Family Service, to use their skills performing repairs for older adults, 60 or over, in their community. In addition to repairs Dolly and Irv make, they also supply a much appreciated service to the elderly, and that is they spend time "just talking" to folks that

Join NBC Florida Retirees

Send \$7.00 to H.L. Folkerts

1942 SE Erwin Road

Port St. Lucie, Fl 34952

Don't miss what's happening

in the *entire* NBC Family

Peacock North Newsletter
is printed at

REDMOND *press*

DENVILLE, N.J.

627-1979

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

need someone to talk to (and knowing Irv and Dolly, that's another of their special talents).

Even tho this was only started in 1990, news is spreading of this special service of Dolly and Irving, and the applause is growing daily. I've had the pleasure of working with Irv for many years. He's always been a do-er. From the Como Road Tours we worked on, we know Irving also plays a great game of "Hearts" in case you're over 60 and lonely. heino

TRIVIA

By Dick Dudley

Many programs of yore were sponsored by one product, not like the magazine system of today. Try to fill in the blanks with the proper advertiser.

- 1) The ____ Showboat
- 2) The ____ Music Hall
- 3) The ____ Troubadours
- 4) The ____ Supper Club
- 5) The ____ Caravan
- 6) The ____ Playhouse
- 7) The ____ Cub Eskimos
- 8) The ____ Fire Chief
- 9) The ____ Hit Parade
- 10) The ____ Hour
- 11) The ____ Hour
- 12) The ____ Hour

(Some of the answers may be hazardous to your health)
See page 19 for correct answers.

Ken's Korner

by Ken Arber

The following is about my association with announcer **Andre Baruch**, at NBC and with the First Broadcast Station Operation Detachment, in which he was the Company Commander in Casa Blanca, Morocco, North Africa.

Being under Andre's command was a pleasure for all the 11 Officers and 16 enlisted men. We all operated the radio station as a professionally run broadcast station. We all had two days a week off, the same as if we were working for NBC. We could all live wherever we chose, with the understanding every one knew where each other lived, so that in the event of an emergency, we could all get together at once. This worked out fine, in fact Howard Ialberg and I lived in a hotel, as did many others. We both were Studio Engineers as we had been in civilian life at home.

The Radio Transmitter was built by members who were "Hams" and it was installed in the bathtub in the bathroom of a fifth floor apartment that had been commandeered by the Army. Several French "Hams" helped us by providing equipment that the Army did not have in stock, like high power transformers, etc.. The studio was sound proofed by the Army Engineers, who had no idea what to do with the perforated transite board, so I became the foreman.

As Andre says, this was the start of The Armed Forces Radio Service. Andre used the call letters of the station as "ABS". He said it was the Atlantic Base Station, but I kidded him saying, that stood for Andre Baruch's Station...

From time to time we would take up a collection of money to buy 78 RPM records from the entertainment organizations on board the Navy ships in Casa Blanca harbour. This way we were able to build up a large library of popular records for the station. Of course we all kept records of our contributions, and I must point out that Andre arranged for all contributions to be repaid to all.

We had a very popular program called "Little Brown Jug" in which the troops would request certain songs. The requests were placed in a make believe jug, from which Andre would select a

song to be played. Of course the program began and ended each time with the playing of the "Little Brown Jug, how I love thee"...

One exception of this, was the mandated fifteen minute program of Hawaiian music that some General who was essential to the operating of our radio station, insisted on. Andre would program this Hawaiian music daily at lunch time, in spite of the fact that the troops did not care for it.

Andre's response was, "You don't bite the hand that feeds you".

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working on NBC shows where he was the announcer. We both got our first break in Radio from the same person, a lady director **Martha Atwill**, who was kind to take a chance, with me a new engineer on her show and Andre as a new announcer.

I first heard Andre as an announcer on a radio program called "Stoopnagle and Bud". I recall he did the whole introduction in French, in which he was fluent, ending with the expression that Stoopnagle would be seated at the "Mighty Gas Pipe Organ".

I have worked many NBC shows with Andre, including The All Star Revue, a Talk show in Radio City and the 1964-1965 World's Fair at the RCA Pavillion.

Andre is well and happy living in L.A. with his beautiful and talented wife Bea Wain. I believe their son Wain Baruch is an exec with the Radio City Music Hall group in NYC. Andre is also a member of the Pacific Pioneers of Radio in L.A.

The following is a list of some of the NBC and CBS people who worked on this troop entertainment station.

Vic Tervola, NBC recording engineer
James H. Watson, engineer WIS Columbia S.C., NBC

Lincoln Dixon, NBC engineering N.Y.
Howard M. Ialberg, NBC Burbank, also WAGE, WOLF engineering
William Ellis, NBC Dallas, WFAA engineering

Jack Anderson, NBC N.Y. Sound Effects
William Folkerts, Reeves Recording N.Y. (Hank's brother)

Huston Brown, CBS engineering N.Y.
Ken Arber, NBC engineering N.Y.

Sorry if I left anyone out, but forty eight years is a long time....

Ken Arber

Want 20 % Off Page 16.

DISNEY WORLD - DISNEYLAND TIX ?

Mary Stringfield and Ariane Mautner wanted the retirees to know that Disney World tickets for Florida and California can be ordered through G E. Offer is available because G E sponsors the Horizons Pavilion at Epcot Center and are available only to advance Purchase, through The GE Horizons Employee Ticket Center. How to order:

With pencil, paper and dates handy, call **GE Horizons Employee Ticket Center** at (407) 895-2527. Have your Visa or Master Card ready. You get a voice messaging system from which you can get info on what's available at both Florida & California and at GE's private Executive Club inside the Horizons Pavilion in Fla.

Provide name, home address, social security number and GE Co, (NBC) you retired from. Current Florida discount prices are:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 1 day/1 Park: Adult | \$27.86 |
| child (3-9) | \$21.94 |
| 4 day/All Parks Adult | \$93.66 |
| child (3-9) | \$74.24 |

Tickets will be mailed to home address. You may order 20 tix per year. Allow 3 weeks for delivery.

At Epcot, NBC employees are invited to the Private GE Executive Club for complimentary refreshments, a back door entry to the ride, and info on additional discounts to other area attractions.

OUR PLACE AT THE LAKE

by Sylvia Bundy

June is past, so is July,
August is ended - likewise I.
The pattering feet of summer and sun
Are over, complete, exhausted, done!
I've fed the young as well as the old,
I've cooled the warm, I've warmed the cold.
The wounded and weeping I have consoled,
The tender and touchy I have cajoled.
I have steeled the scared, I have scared the bold,
I have bit my tongue till it was controlled.
I've broiled the steak, I have casseroleed,
And the grocer thinks I am made of gold.
(The other bills I have pigeonholed)
And frankly friends, I am ready to fold!
Next time I live I'll make the most
Of being the guest, not the host.

More "GOLDEN OLDIES"
In NEXT ISSUE

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

By Dick Dudley

Back in 1938 when I joined the Page Staff at 30 Rock, the reigning queen of kiddie shows was Irene Wickers. Most of you Peacock Northerners, who are younger than I, probably tuned in to her broadcasts. She was known as "The Singing Lady" and had an audience of millions. She was under contract to RCA Victor, wrote children's books, won an Emmy and was presented the Peabody Award. In 1941, she married Victor Hammer, the brother of Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum fame. Everything was coming up roses until 1950 when she entertained some Spanish refugee children, which in the eyes of Senator Joe McCarthy, made her sympathetic to Communistic causes. And, my oh my, she had sung some Russian Gypsy songs on the air. She was blacklisted and her career was finished. She ended her life as an invalid in a nursing home mentally incompetent.

Another kiddie show lady at that time was Madge Tucker who presided over a program called "Coast to Coast on a Bus". The only thing I know about Madge is that she married William Burke Miller, an NBC Vice President, whose main function was to attend to the care and feeding of any VIPs

and Celebrities who visited the studio during prime time -which they did in those early days. I remember falling in love with a freckled faced, plain gal in, gawd forbid, slacks who came in dashing across the 2nd floor. It was a young Katherine Hepburn. Spencer Tracy described her well when he said, "There ain't much there but what there is -is choice".

The second floor, in those days, was the St. Peter's gate to the NBC Paradise.

As you departed the elevator you were faced with an awe inspiring desk which spanned at least twenty feet between stairways that led up to the third floor. Sitting in the middle of that raised podium was George Malchholm, formally attired in black tie and sporting his eternal red carnation, waiting to greet the great radio public who cam to worship at the red and blue network shrine. (According to folklore, George had been David Sarnoff's chauffeur and had been given this chore for his loyalty.)

Mount the curving stairs on either side of that oversized podium and you arrived on the third floor where the action was. There were two big studios, A and B, and six small cells of activity where the soap operas made their home. Let us see, there was:

Portia Faces Life, David Harum, John's Other Wife, Against the Storm, Backstage Wife, Amanda of Sunnybrook Hill, Lorenzo Jones are the ones that you remember and I don't. Back in the big studio 3B, the March of Time held forth. It had its own company of actors who were able to imitate the voices of the VIPs in the news and they rehearsed all week as the news changed and new scripts were written.

The March of Time was able to break one of NBC's taboo's. It was the policy at that time that everything on the network air must be live and anything recorded was forbidden except for sound effect recordings. The Time program needed the sound of the Russian Cossack Choir for a background effect to one of its important stories and the only way to get it was off a recording. Henry Luce and David Sarnoff probably sat in executive sessions for a long while before the first recording went on the air over NBC.

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OKTOBERFEST



" GOLDEN OLDIES "

OKTOBERFEST

NBC's first TV Student Group (NABET Group 10) [circa 1946]
Top L to R: ANDY SWITZER, PIERRE BOUCHERON, BOB HANNA, LES SHAW, AARON STEPHENSON
Bott L to R: ORLANDO TAMBURRI, ROBERT "Doc" POTTER

I must tell you how very much I enjoy receiving and reading the PN PEOPLE from cover to cover! It is a splendid effort! Do keep it coming!

I was interested in your mention of the "Number ONE Crew" of **Tamburri, Elikann and Coffey** with **H. Ripp** as the T.D. There is no doubt in my mind that **H. Ripp** was the number ONE T.D. at the time. He opened shows at the International Theatre and worked all of the studios in Rockefeller Center. At about the same time I was working up in the 106th Street Studios in Harlem as the only T.D.! We did a lot of little shows like "EASY DOES IT" with a new director named **Dwight Hemion**, and **Eddy Condon's "Floor Show"** directed by another new guy named **Clark Jones** assisted by **Sid Smith**.

At this time the Kudner Agency was making waves in television and our NBC #1 T.D. left NBC to join the Kudner Group as a Program Director. Mr. **Rah Davis** -Chief of NBC-NY Operations transferred me to the Rockefeller Center location and I replaced **Frank Burns** for the summer series of Non-commercial dramatic presentations. "How Sweet It Was" to quote Jackie Gleason whose show I also did along with alternate comic **Phil Silvers** in Radio Studio 3-B where it became necessary to put three field cameras on platforms to "shoot" those on the stage over the heads of the audience. In any case, the point here, is that after about 3 weeks in 8G it seemed that a battle of sorts developed whereby either the T.D., me, or the camera crew led by Mr. **Fidelius Blunk**, would determine how, where and when the cameras would function. The next day I came into Radio City, on my day off, to see Mr. **Davis**. I told him that he'd either have to appoint a new T.D. or give me a friendly camera crew. In asking who I wanted, I replied that **Jerry Cudlipp, John Rogers** and **Dan Zampino** would be greatly appreciated. His reply was that he could not make that great a change since it would effect several shows that his crew had to remain with. I suggested then that he give me the newest, greenest that NBC-NY had and he agreed. Next Saturday, Messrs. **Tamburri, Elikann and Coffey** appeared in 8G. It is also interesting that the cameras then in 8G were designed and built by the Engineering Department in New York. These cameras were of wide-band balanced video design and made use of special 4 1/2 inch Image Orthicon tubes "hand made" by Dr. Otto Schade, the video genius at RCA's Tube Division in Harrison, N.J.

Now it seems that a brand new advertising V.P. from RCA, upon learning about these cameras put a "hold" on Studio 8G for 3 days. he had photogs shoot many photos of the "new RCA Cameras". Some time later, the RCA "Brass" received indignant queries from their customers wanting the "new cameras" as shown in the brochure. Result? Orders came down from the "Generals Office" that we at NBC from now on must use the Standard RCA Cameras with the smaller 2 1/2 inch Image Orthicon Tube!

Getting back to 8G and the dramas, in those days the actors normally were engaged in Broadway Productions and had to appear in the Saturday Matinees. Since we'd rehearse in the studio in the morning and the afternoon was free, it seemed a good idea to have this "brand new camera crew" practise covering the action that was normal to dramas!

We'd close the studio and the cameramen would follow me as I made unusual and tricky moves on the sets! This practice consisting of "stage crosses" and fast moves upstage and downstage, this was made known to **Fred Coe** - Producer of the commercial **PHILCO TELEVISION PLAYHOUSE** show, to the extent that Mr. Coe accepted this gang of "greenhorns" for his show when the season began.

I stayed with this group of great guys for two years when **Dr. Bob Selby** asked me to leave the commercial operations and head up the crew that would be involved in "field testing" the newly

developed RCA COLOR TV SYSTEM! Management had told the **PHILCO PLAYHOUSE** staff that Gen. David Sarnoff requested **Pike**, who would work with RCA-Princeton LAB. people and RCA-CAMDEN commercial staff.

This did take place and a most interesting experience developed. We in New York would do the Field Testing of the system that included improvements as they came along, I guess that my main contribution was the use of the IRIS as the best gain control device. At first we used a 3-potentiometer arrangement of a single shaft to control video gain, resulting a terrible color mismatch! Then a method of controlling the voltage of one of the six multiplier stages in the Image Ortho was tried with almost the same result but not as bad. Finally we went up to the Bausch & Lomb office in the RCA Bldg. and arranged to get a small "heat iris" that was used in spot light control. We placed this in the complicated optical path so that it could not effect optical focus. This seemed to work on a manually operated test. Mr. **J.R. DeBaun**, **Doc Shelby's** Assistant, passed this info on to the RCA Princeton guys and from that time on we had "motor driven Iris elements" remotely controlled by the Video operating Engineer in the control room...

By this time most of the U. S. Manufacturers were extremely interested in COLOR TELEVISION but were unable to accept a "wholly RCA developed" system! The RCA System, a "fool-proof" one known as C P A, for Color Phase Alternation and would sample the HUE component at a 4. MHz rate. The opponents of RCA formed a group known as the NATIONAL TELEVISION STANDARDS COMMITTEE who named the HAZELTINE LABS, a "neutral" electronic research lab, to devise some part of a system to circumvent the RCA development. They did! What they did was to ruin the positive HUE CONTROL that was developed at RCA! With CPA, the RCA method, a hue, or color control was unnecessary! Now with the N T S C system approved by the Fed. Comm. Comm., green or yellow flesh tones became an everyday happening! However since RCA had devoted so much time and effort to enhance Television Viewing, it became incumbent to continue the effort in the original direction!

I stayed with this group of fellow workers for about two years when **Doc Shelby**, anticipating a fast growing expansion of Color TV asked me to join him in the Management Team of Engineers at NBC. Also, RCA in an effort to push the sales of the Color Television Receivers offered to pay the difference in cost between Color and Black & White to advertisers and commercial video producers.

Doc Shelby was a knowledgeable, warm and understanding human person seldom found in the world of "high-tech" skillful individuals who spend most of their time supervising others, I welcomed the opportunity to work for him! It was an exciting period and continued for four months when unfortunately, **Doc Shelby** died while suffering a massive heart attack! It seemed to me that the NBC Engineering prestige and technical succumbed as well.

I do not want to expand on all of the wonderful opportunities that developed for me at NBC but believed the story of the "Number One Camera Crew" should be told.....

Best Regards,

DON PIKE...

[Besides being a knowledgeable technical man, Don also is a terrific musician, having written musical arrangements for "Les Brown (the band of renown) in the forties, as well as played the trumpet and piano. He still is involved in music, a first love. I remember visiting Don in Bloomfield, NJ where he had built the equipment for an entire TV studio in his spare time.(Heino)

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Frank DeRienzo - Arthur Gary

A photo of our new PRES, Frankie Di
schmoozing it up with Arthur
at La Maganette

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In NEXT ISSUE

[N.B.C] Golf

"Spring Classic" PHOTOS

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JUN 11

PHOTOS FROM OUR ALBUM



ROOTIE KAZOOTIE CLUB

From Ken Arber's Album... THE SHOW: ROOTIE KAZOOTIE / TIME: 1952-ish / PLACE: N.B.C. Studio "B", 67th Street

Top row: Little Boy, KEN ARBER TD, *AL KING Cam #1, DON McDONAUGH stge Mgr. LEE PLISKIN Video,

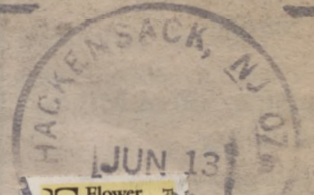
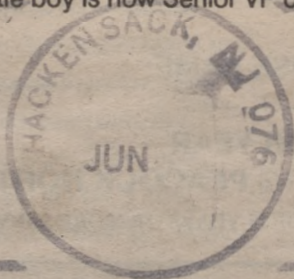
*BILL ANDERSON Lighting Director.

Bottom Row: HOWIE SHARROT Records, DAVE LALICATTA Camera #2, BOB HILL Camera #3, RAY WEISS Audio.

[Starred names, "*"... Sad to relate, deceased]

A proud papa writes "the little boy is now Senior VP of MCA Universal TV in California, Ken Arber Jr"

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



FIRST CLASS