

Editor: Dan Grabel -Designed/Published by: Heino Ripp May 1992

SUNDER DISCOVERS T.V. STAR

Jim Sunder, [a videoman at NBC at retirement] sent us this epistle:
Here's one for the "Whatever Happened to...? Department. If you are a real genuine NBC-TV old-timer, you must remember "Easy Does It!".
Easy Does It was a half hour nightly music show that was started in studio 3H and was sandwiched in weekday evenings between Howdy Doody -- ("Camera three, give us a close-up of the monkey eating soup with the spoon.") and the Camel Caravan with John Cameron Swayze. (Hopscotching the world for Headlines" -(Boom up, dolly in and tilt down to the typewriter) ... "Easy Does It" lasted several years between the late 40's and early 50's and was hosted by Johnny Andrews singing cont'd Pge

Spring Luncheon Skd. May 31st at 1:00 pm at La Maganette

PN's Spring get together at La Maganette restaurant will take place again this year. Mail in the reserv-ation form inside the back cover and send Pete a check for \$20.

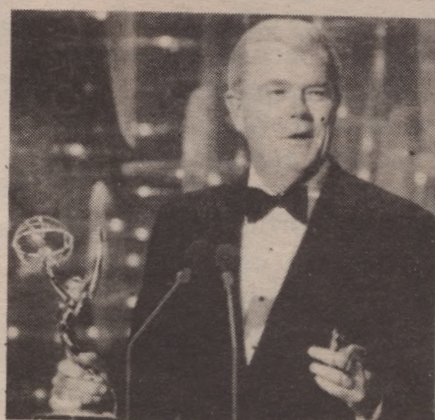
Date is **Sunday May 31, 1992 at 1:00 pm.** Come and enjoy a festive lunch with your old friends. Marie Finnegan requested especially that those who worked on The TODAY Show be there to celebrate Today's 40th anniversary.

It " Won't Last " - They All Said Yet, P.N. Watched "TODAY" Celebrate 40th Anniversary - CONGRATULATIONS !

Letters, Stories and Photos throughout the Newsletter.



Johnny Andrews



Above: Director Dwight Hemion, now living in Virginia receiving one of his many Emmys; was directing in 50's. Born same day as Walt Miller and Heino Ripp.

P.N. PEOPLE

Heard at the Piccolissimo mini lunch -

NICK PONELLA (Retired fm TODAY show "5E", W2YEG ham call).. Discovered that the rest of the world sleeps during night time, is now getting used to that, says he likes it ! Also doing some "hamming" on the low bands and finds that there are plenty of little jobs that have never gotten done. Enjoy sleeping late Nick.. **HERB SCHLOSSER**, former president of NBC. now a senior advisor, Broadcast and Entertainment, with Wertheim Schroder & Co., in NYC joins our Peacock North group... **KATHY GREENE** decided to enjoy Palm Beach, Fla. for the winter She'd love to hear from anyone in the area... **IRVING MESSING** (ex lighting chief in 3B-TODAY Show) is helping **BOBBY BROWN** in coordinating PN folk attendance at the **SPRING CLASSIC Golf Outing** this year. Lots of PN'ers partook last spring. If you're interested in playing golf with your cronies, call **Irving** at **201:797-4404** for reservations and details. Ladies are invited, The Classic (with prizes) is scheduled for May 28 at High Mountain Golf Club in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey.. Irv is always busy. He's off to Nashville, for the Country Western Music Awards, with **BILL KLAGES** and **WALTER MILLER**. Not only that, in helping old Jewish folk in his area, he's clearing out an early day TV scientist's work shop; and quite an assortment of tools are available. If interested call IRV.

LEE PLISKIN at last Mini Luncheon announced # 11 grandchild on the way. This month, #12 was announced.

BUD SHADEL plans to attend NBCFR reunion in March, also visiting daughter and son in law will become easier, since daughter Susan and husband CMDR Robert Smith transferred from command of a Pacific Naval vessel to Newport, R.I. for a year.

MORTY ARONOFF - our son in from France with fiancée. He works for Case Poclain outside Paris (part of Tenneco, USA). Now we have a place in Europe to visit. Mort and Milly expect to be at the NBCFR reunion in March, while staying at Elderhostel in St. Pete, Fla.. In Briarcliff Manor, we're enjoying our four month old Joshua... Heard on Ham radio net: **ARTHUR (Andy) ANDERSON** will be addressed at Black Mountain, No. Carolina around 25 March. Having sold his old house...

ARNOLD RAND and **JOE KOLB** and spouses barbecued with **BILL MILLER** in Florida. Randy, Joe and Bill are heard on the AIR on the NBC Ham Net, at 14.223 mhz abt 9:45 am weekdays.. **JOHN ARAM** notes with his dues check that he's up to the eye balls in baby alligators - A. getting daughter Justine married in April . B. finally after 9 months, getting a township ordinance revised and getting approval to open an antique shop here, in the "old Pokies". John was a fixture in TVC for a long time... **Ann Howard** writes: husband **BILL**, still (Mar 08 92) in intensive care after an operation in on the ventilator, slowly improving. Bill would love to hear: go to Pg2

**HAVE YOUR FRIENDS
JOIN PEACOCK NORTH !**

PEOPLE... cont'd from Pge 1.
 from some of the men he worked with for so many years.. Enjoys reading the Peacock North. Get well soon... **MAX BUCK** writes "Thanks teammates.. Great Work.. Congratulations".
 --Keep that applause coming, Max !
PHIL FALCONE is doing well in his cardiac rehab program, says he's happy to be home and to some home cookin'...
WES PAULSON (audio/video) played a little tennis and bowled last week for the first time after prostate surgery. says he's doing fine now... **DICK DUDLEY** writes that **MEL BRANDT** visited him in Pa. for a weekend, and joined Peacock North. Thanks Mel and thanks Dick. Who can we send to you for the next weekend. Gotta keep the membership up you know.. Look for Dick's Trivia in this issue... **CARMINE PICIOCCIO** writes from Spring Hill, Fla: Talking to **Mike Egan**, **Vince Kane**, and **Jim Blaney** re: Should they switch to GE Medical supplement from the RCA Plan ? Carmen asks maybe we can get **Howie Atlas** for a pro/con article...
Howie ??-- FRED (Red) McKINNON writes from L.A.: *I think quite a lot of my long time friends from NBC and will attempt to attend one of the get-togethers this year. Am still active as ever, but will look forward to less travel in the coming years. Best always, Red.*

[Red is lighting director par excellence with the Klages Group in L.A.]... Welcome to **CLARK JONES** meticulous, tasteful, great TV Director, who joins the PN group. Clark was directing the Hit Parade in the 50's and went on to bigger and better shows as years rolled by. [Perry Como, Tony Awards, Night of 100 Stars to mention a few]..[Hi Clark, I retired in 1985, still freelancing, off to the olympics in July. If I continue next year, will be 50th year of TV - guess it's time to quit., Ripp]... **ED ROSSI** worked on the Miss USA Pageant in Kansas. (see photo in this issue). There, Charlie Mangano showed him the Newsletter. Ed worked as unit mgr with Jack Paar, NBC News and many more, married Linda Smith, former sec. to Jerry Madden. Went to ABC in LA as Mrg unit Mgrs, with EBU during LA Olympics. He joined PN. Welcome Ed !... **DAVID WILSON**, long time T.V.Director, after a few years off to rest up and rebuild his Parsippany home, still back at directing Sat. Nite Live. After all that late through-the-night work schedule, I hear Dave just couldn't stay awake during the daytime, so had to back to SNL. Just Kidding Dave. Wish David Brenner would come back, that was fun like the old days. (H.)...

MAX BUCK writes "Thanks teammates.. Great Work.. Congratulations".
 --Keep that applause coming, Max !
MARIE FINNEGAN asked Pete to send a complimentary copy of PN to some NBC friends. It pays to advertise Pete!
 More Finnegan re: Today Show later...
GEORGE WASIELKE still playing golf on the end of Long Island when there's no snow on the ground, obviously enjoying "no 3am" calls from TOPS...
ARTHUR HOLUB (radio mcr) who started work at NBC 63 years ago, currently spends the winter months in Cape Canaveral... **RAY WOLF** and wife **PAT** have sold their home and moved to a retirement village in Lakehurst, N.J. and have been taking trips around

Pa., NY and Las Vegas. He noted that the Medical has gone up again and wondered why the equity in the paid-up life insurance couldn't be used to finance the medical ? ?.. **MARIE FINNEGAN** went back to the typewriter again. This time she hopes that anyone who worked on or with the TODAY Show to try to make the spring luncheon at La Maganette to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the show that critics said "wouldn't make it.." "We all have such beautiful memories to exchange, especially in the early days at the Exhibition Hall..

Marie also enclosed a New York Post article by Cathy Burke indicating that the Appeals Court ruled "*Workplace stresses can indeed lead to suicide, and result in an allowable death benefit*". This ruling upheld a \$98,040 death benefit for **Joel Friedman**, who killed himself on May 14, 1980. A top management shakeup in 1978 at NBC changed Friedman's job considerably - and put him and others "in fear of their jobs". He was forced to wear a beeper and got numerous calls at home from the brass... **BILL HANRAHAN** finally caught up with the newsletter. Says they're all well and his best to the compatriots... **JIM REINA** former unit manager, sold the house in L.A. and bought a condo in Studio City...
CATHERINE DEEB notes she enjoys the newsletter, especially the pictures. (Thanks to all who lent me your photos - Heino)... Using their P.C's, **BOB JUNCOSA**, **HOWIE ATLAS**, **HAROLD MOFSEN**, **PETE PETERSON**, **HARRY KATZMAN** and others are enjoying the NABET Bulletin Board in Chi with messages left for eachother. Some were infected with the recent **computer virus** and I'm not sure how the recovery is going. Juncosa sent Howie Atlas a note recently: *I remember playing golf with Walter Miller and Frank Gaeta and a stranger made up the foursome. Frank hit a drive into the rough and let out with some loud "choice" expletives. Walter calmly says to the stranger, "That's OK "Father", he really is a nice person !* Walter, now tell the story of when you couldn't get dinner reservations, but said you were **Doctor Miller**, and tout de suite, was led past the waiting line to a table. During the dinner an announcement over the P.A. frantically called for Dr. Miller to aid a diner who became seriously ill..Ahem!. Walt got out of that one O.K. tho... Heard from our Washington contingent **MARY (McNULTY) STERNFELD** retired to West Palm Beach in 1985 after living in Maryland for 10 yrs. Mary was Max

Buck's secretary for 23 yrs. (at NBC, 32 yrs). **MANNY STERNFELD** started at NBC NY - his final NBC years were at WRC-TV in Washington, as Dir. of Business Affairs. They play a lot of golf and Manny has become very active in "Theater", having appeared in several shows at the Royal Poinciana and Jupiter Theaters etc.. Manny and Mary want to say "Hi" to all their friends in Peacock North... **MAURICE DICK** (lighting chief in 3K) sends best wishes to all. (enjoying the Puerto Rico sun near Loquillo Beach, I hope,)... CBS now knows we have a PN.. **DORIS (STEEN) WILLIAMS** hired by NBC payroll in 1937, and declares she has many, many happy memories.

Her husband is a CBS retiree and **Pge 2.** also knew many NBC employees. They live in Columbus, No. Carolina.. --
GREG GARRISON writes a letter from Thousand Oaks, Ca... I worked with Greg on "Show of Shows" 1950. How nice it was to get this letter out of the past. I remember every moment for it was truly great fun and sense of accomplishment, an hour and half, live every week for 39 weeks a year. Greg always finished rehearsal early so we could go into Central Park and get some sun. Greg you were great to work with. I decided to copy the letter as is; and it appears elsewhere in the paper, for lots of the folk mentioned will also be happy to read it. I think Ben Franklin supplied your address, and Pete sent you the paper... **ANDREW HAMMERSCHMIDT** lives on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. Many of you PN'ers have been there for the golf matches - a lovely spot. Andy used to work in the development lab during WW II inventing antennas and airborne RF systems (grandpa of the Patriot missile) and at one time was the Engineering VP in NY. Andy sent in the 1st "Ham Operator with his station" foto. (later on in Newsletter.) Says he has spent 12 years playing with his computer and has retired to a lovely Island. Thanks for the compliments re the Newsletter, Andy, and thanks for being such a great teacher in my early days. I couldn't have had a better bunch of teachers than yourself and all the other pros in the lab....

The NBC HAM NET has quite a roster of "hams" who are heard regularly every morning. If you haven't joined in the gab fest, you should try it. **HANK FOLKERTS** is the controller in Florida, **JOE KOLB** cntrols from No. Carolina, although he's been transmitting fm Fla this winter. **EV GEIGER** daily meets us from N.J., **KEN ARBER** from Fla., **BOBBY HIGGINS** puts out a nice loud signal from Florida, also heard driving to NJ recently. **JOHN RICE** broadcsats from Fla., **BILL MILLER** has a KW or so fm Fla., **BOB JUNCOSA** often is on fm California, **MARTY DENNIS** wakes up early in Arizona to schmooze, **HOWIE ATLAS** and **WALT DIBBINS** holds up the Long Island, NY banner. Haven't heard **ED WACKERNAGLE** lately fm Calif, nor **SAM ROTH**. **BILL MERRILL** climbs aboard from central NJ, **JOHN LOUGH** calls in from Cape Cod, **VINCE GENZARDI** was heard often fm NJ, **PETE PETERSON** is on a lot from Closter, NJ, **HAROLD MOFSEN** pops is often, **CHARLIE SAVAIA** booms in from somewhere: **TOM LYMAN** from Conn, gets on when not skating.

TED SIETER, lounging in Exhuma, in the Bahamas in the winter time, is on quite a lot, and now he even has a phone! **DAN GRABEL** also gets on once in a while. Not on the net, but have heard **ROY NEAL**, **K6DUE**, formerly from Calif., now living in High Point, N.C. **JOHN WARD** was on this winter broadcasting from his VW Bus, in Mexico, last year from Alaska; haven't heard him lately tho - must have found a senorita more interesting than Ham radio... As you see, quite a group who obviously enjoyed working together and are having fun with their hobby, more so since all are scattered around the world... cont'd Pge. 3.

Have Best of Both !
JOIN NBCFR Also

ROSEMARY DUBOIS enjoying retirement and says the newsletter means a lot to many of "we" retirees... **BOB RUDICK** would not want to miss a single issue of "Memory Lane", so he sent Pete a check... **JOHN SCUOPPO** sends in his \$20...says PN's **Memories, Then and Now** - are worth more than the \$19.95 WNBC sells its tape with a similar name. **RICHARD DANIELS** enjoying retirement from Electronic Maintenance in Jupiter, Florida. If you see Perry Como walking along the beach Dick, say hello!... **GINNY SEIPT** former a.d., director & producer; lotsly sports items, now doing freelance pieces for "Today". Says it's nice to still see some familiar faces around the halls. Happy new year to all...

FRANK O'KEEFE tells us his youngest son was recently awarded a Distinguished Service Medal for his work during the Persian Gulf conflict .. Recently, Frank had a three hour lunch with **KAY** and **DON MULVANEY** and **BOB HIGGINS** at MacDivots on a veranda overlooking the putting greens and the driving range of Carolina Golf and Country Club. It was a truly beautiful afternoon, the temperature *languished* in the mid eighties with a pleasant breeze making it a real comfortable place to trade war stories. (And I'm sitting at the computer looking out at eight inches of snow and a 23 degree wind from the North). **BOB NEWMAN** (former Unit Mgr., writes from NYC: One contribution of sorts I would like to make, especially for members who are still on active service. I recommend *very* strongly that everyone thoroughly read all the GE Plan documents as best they can, looking for areas which might apply to their individual situations. No offense to the hard-pressed Benefits group, but it seems to be better for the employee to have some awareness of his or her potential entitlements as the time of separation approaches. PN members who are leaving, but not retiring directly from active service, should become familiar with NBC/GE benefits for what are defined as *long-service* employees. [A word to the wise!]. **EVELYN P. SHOEMAKER** on the mend after hospitalization. Moving to York, Pa. with daughter and family. Her grand daughter has enlisted in the Navy and grandson is at Eastman School of Music, on a fabulous scholarship... Heading for Barcelona in July for the Summer Olympics: **HEINO RIPP**, **JIM SUNDER**, **STEVE JAMBECK**, **ROBERT VAN RY**, **TED NATHANSON** (so far that we know of, but list is growing)... **JOE NASH**, Unit mgr, plus, in News area sends

his dues in from Honolulu and joins the PN family. Living in Hawaii or working, Joe ? Anyway having a good time I hope. Send pictures !,... **ROD RODAMISTA** writes that he is making great strides in the recuperative stage of an illness. Hurry up and get well Rod, it's getting to be golf time.... **JACK COFFEY**, joined PN. Was camera-man in 1948 (Philco Playhouse etc), a T.D., then left NBC to direct. Curenly is Director for ABC's "All My Children". Also sent in some Golden Oldie photos, some of which appear in this issue. Welcome Jack and thanx for pix...

HOPE SHINIKOFF, most senior retiree sends her best wishes to all Peacock North.... Announcer **FRED COLLINS** regrets missing the last few get-togethers, but he's been working, and recovering from surgery. Fred Is mending OK, thank you... **NORMAN BLUMENTHAL** writes he would appreciate if someone near West Hempstead could take him to La Maganette luncheon. His wife Sylvia recently passed away. PN would like to extend our deepest sympathy Norm. Pete says keep in touch, and keep going....

ART WEIDER has some fotos for us. Art asks what are the requirements for reproduction ?? Well Art, they can be color or black and white, I prefer a print over negatives, for there are too many steps to use a negative. For most pix, I am getting to like the next larger size from the normal 3 x 5. The 8" x 10" is about as large as I'd like to get, for mailings becomes cumbersome; they're usually all bent even if you say DON'T BEND! We'll be waiting !

Art enjoys reading the news items and particularly the anecdotes. On Ham Radio, Art is on 7242 mhz on Tuesday and Thursdays at 9:30 am and Wednesday at 10:30... Join Him !! **ROGER TUTTLE** just returned to New Jersey to sign contracts for the sale of his "race horse farm" in Colts Neck. He also writes "We will join **WALT** and **DORIS VETTER** and **ALLEN** and **JOAN POTTER** in Florida in May, for a trip to Germany, Switzerland, Italy and etc.; etc for they keep changing the countries around so..."Say **HELLO**, to everybody for us - Thanks to you guys for keeping "Peacock North on Top ! **THANKS to** :For the Photos..... Jack Coffey, O. Tamburri Mrs. Jack Fitzpatrick Pete Peterson, Gene Martin Marian Eiskamp, Chas. Magnano Bob Juncosa, Andy Hammerschmidt Enid Roth, Ken Arber, Doc Potter TODAY, Jim Sunder Ed Lin, and my camcorder & Minolta .

Heino



Pat & Roger Tuttle

" TOO-JAY'S DELI " Reunion Luncheon

This happy gang of retirees is assembled just outside of "TOO -JAY'S DELI," in North Palm Beach, Fla. about to partake in a meal that will take us down Memory Lane.. This Deli is a nostalgic reminder of the great restaurant in New York, known to all as the "STAGE DELI," where the greatest of the great, used to meet and eat.. So along with it's great sandwiches, "TOO-JAY'S" gives all of us a nice "UP HOME" feeling.. It started out with a few "Old kids on the block" getting together for an occasional lunch, and has slowly blossomed into a group..If your in the neighborhood.. "DROP IN.... UH-UH !"

We asked a volunteer to take our picture, he did better than some of the framing I see on he networks. Great job !
Gene Martin.



LUNCHEON REUNION

Nick Bruno, Joe Maietta, Gene Martin, Lee Carlton, Joe Bascietto, Gary Iorio, and trying to smile through the pain, Dom Salvio!!!

MEMORIES of "TODAY"

MATTHEW J. CULLIGAN -

The Man Who Sold The "TODAY SHOW"

1953 - 1954 by: marie finnegan

It is very possible that there would not be a 40th Anniversary Celebration if it were'nt for Matthew J. Culligan (we all call him Joe)

I called Joe recently to double-check what I remembered about his phenomenal feat.

You can decide If I am correct in my assumption that Joe saved the show.

Here are the facts:

During the first year of the Show, it was losing a great deal of money. There were many rumors that it was going off the air.

Then along came Joe Culligan.

Joe was hired by Jack Herbert who was the Vice President in charge of sales. He instructed Joe to make the show profitable or it would be cancelled.

Joe is a very dynamic personality !

He starter by hiring three young men from the NBC Guide Staff as Junior Salesmen, namely Bill Asip, Dick Soule and Robert Bonagura.

He launched a unique sales drive by taking Dave Garroway to ad agencies when he made his sales presentations.

Ad agencies were luke lukewarm about TV at that time in the morning, so he concentrated on advertisers. At first none of them believed anyone was watching TODAY. So he challenged them to survey their dealers and distributors and learn how many were regular viewers of TODAY and how many knew who Dave Garroway was. In two out of three cases the responses were affirmative, and we started to get a dribble of small advertisers from small agencies. They got the interest of larger Ad Agencies.

Joe also used a new and very successful technique --having Dave do sales Kines that were pitched to the particular client to whom he was trying to sell the show. We kept Marge McGlynn very busy getting us Kine time after the show - many times at very short notice in order to meet Joe's deadlines.

Joe and his team of three made as many as six presentations a day. The dribble of advertisers became a flow - and then a flood - starting in September, 1953. We were well on our way.

By its second year (1953-1954) TODAY had made more money than any other TV show or movie, ever, even "Gone With The Wind".

Those were very happy and exciting days for all of us who worked on the TODAY Show at that time.

Thank You, Joe !

P.S. Joe went on to become:

President, CEO - The NBC Radio Network
Executive Vice President - The NBC Television Network
Chairman, President and CEO - The Curtis Publishing Co.

Originator of Radio and Television Shows; he continues to be active in these areas.

Author of 13 published books.

Marie Finnegan

**"TODAY" Memories
by: ann kramer**

It is difficult to watch the "TODAY" program these days - all that "cheerfulness" leaves me looking back nostalgically to those first years when there really was a mood of family and togetherness. Was there ever a more enthusiastic and dedicated group of TV pioneers ?

However, I did tune in for all the 40th anniversary hoopla and was struck by one glaring omission. If there was one person more than any other responsible for keeping "TODAY" on the air that first year, it was Mort Werner. After all this time, I'm not too clear on titles, but I think he was called "producer", which doesn't begin to cover his many facets. Someone once compared him to a bowling ball hurtling down the alley, knocking all obstacles aside. He was always in a hurry, involved in every aspect of the program - and that included sales (this was before supersalesman Joe Culligan joined us). Anytime we were confronted with a commercial-less program, the next day Mort would get on the phone with some of those brave, early sponsors (Beacon Wax and Appian Way Pizza come to mind) and cajole them into buying a spot or two.

So my vote for "unsung hero" of the "TODAY" program goes to Mort Werner. I'm convinced that without him there wouldn't have been a 1st anniversary, much less a 40th. I may have missed it, but I heard no reference to Mort, just a shot of him chatting with Dave Garroway in the studio.

Another "TODAY" original was Mary Kelly, bigger than life and more interesting than many of the theater/movie guests she talked into getting up at 5 am for live interviews.

Unhappily, both Mort and Mary are gone, along with Elliot Frankel and Dave Teitelbaum, two other dear friends from those early days.

As I sit here writing this, so many good memories come flooding back, it would take a full issue of PN to contain them all. So I'll close with gratitude for the special gift "TODAY" has granted me --life long friendships with wonderful people such as Marie Finnegan, Lilly Russo, Helen Petretti, Muriel Kirkpatrick, Freddy Lights, Letty Sinclair, Dan Grabel and so many more.

Thank You "TODAY", and

Peace, Ann Kramer

Dick Dudley's Trivia Quiz"

Match the husbands and wives:

(If you don't guess these, you didn't own a radio set)

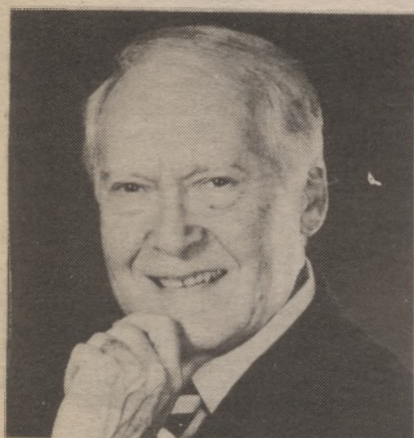
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| I 1. Ed Fitzgerald | A. Polly |
| H 2. Steve Lawrence | B. Faye Emerson |
| G 3. Vic | C. Jinx Falkenberg |
| N 4. Jack Benny | D. Ida |
| L 5. Fibber McGee | E. Julia Sanderson |
| K 6. Fred Allen | F. Edie Adams |
| O 7. Andrew H Brown | G. Sade |
| D 8. Eddie Cantor | H. Edie Gorme |
| M 9. Roy Rogers | I. Pegeen |
| 10. Ed East | J. Jane |
| P 11. George Burns | K. Portland Hoffa |
| Q 12. Bing Crosby | L. Molly |
| 13. Frank Crumit | M. Dale Evans |
| C 14. Tex McCrary | N. Mary Livingston |
| B 15. Skith Henderson | O. Sapphire |
| J 16. Goodman Ace | P. Gracie Allen |
| F 17. Ernie Kovacs | Q. Dixie Lee |

← Marcia Kuyper Schneider - Mike Sherlock - Frank Schneider
Marcia A.D.'d "Garroway at Large" from Chicago



TODAY:

40 AND STILL GOING



dan grabel

We watched the second hour of Today's fortieth anniversary show on Tuesday, January 14th, and came away with a ho-hum. Not very imaginative., although we know they had been working on it for at least months.

There was a parade of personalities, past and present, with some exceptions, notably John Palmer, who said he'd prefer to look ahead rather than back, probably as a result of the circumstances under which he parted the show. And that story we do NOT know. Also absent, J.Fred Muggs whom most of the audience may well remember more than the humans. Sylvester "Pat" Weaver, the creator was in a taped interview on the inspiration of the show.

Chancellor, Brokaw and Hartz commented on the essence of the show in their day. Jack explaining that there wasn't two hours of news around in the 60's to fill every morning so entertainment was necessary. Tom noted that life is not all news, there's books and music, etc. so that was a natural part of the show. Hartz and the others noted, too that it was before the days of satellites and the capability of taking a feed from anywhere in the world. (Telco, you'll recall made a fortune everytime the net switched to the west coast.)

They talked about the Exhibition Hall window and the crowds who appeared every day but showed nary a close-up of one of the signs people always held up, and they talked of Harry Truman looking in, but did not show that scene, possibly cause they couldn't find Harry in the archives. In the local cut in, they had the weatherman IRA Joe Fisher in the window and he talked about the people and signs, but while there were people out there in the rain, an a few signs, did we see one of them? Nooooo.

The second hour was all in the studio. You'd wonder how WNBC managed to do a spot from the Exhibition Hall, while TODAY itself didn't do the show from there. Expense?

In One Willard Scott weather spot they had a character (Bill Cosby) made up as Gene Shalit, fright wig, fright moustache and all but NEVER identified him for those who did not know it was Cosby. That was very "in" and I wonder if it "played" in Peoria.

One of the better, but truncated pieces, was Shalit's parade of music personalities from Bernstein to Crosby (that's Crosby, not Cosby), but most were just passing shots in a photo album.

They had kinescopes of Garroway, Jack Lescoulie, Frank Blair, (alive but ailing) but I don't recall (in the 2nd hour) a snippet with Muggs. They must have really had it in for the chimp. And a nice spot with four of the Today

"girls", which was not in the original plans, but apparently better heads prevailed. The included Helen O'Connell, Lee Ann Merriwether, who is now just "Lee", Betsey Palmer, and Florence Henderson. Over the years there have been 29 Today "girls", and the four who were on said "girls" was a more appropriate term than say, "women". In the first hour Estelle Parsons, writer, then on-air personality before she became an actress, did a walk through of the Exhib Hall. She was studying to become a lawyer while working on the show. Meriwether recalled

J. Fred Muggs

Almost Returns To "TODAY"

The on-air promos were few and brief -- A J.Fred Muggs feature coming up on the TODAY show the next morning.

We tuned in Tuesday morning, Feb 25th to catch up on the doings of the world's most famous primate. Katie Couric's script said that the press had carried a number of reports on the fact that the chimp had not appeared on the 40th anniversary show. (Editor: That show was six weeks earlier, but why rush to cover the news.) We waited with great anticipation to see the rambunctious chimp who shared Today's screen with Garroway in the 1950's when I was among the overnight newswriters. Katie said that J.Fred was reported to be living in Tampa and we did not see a solitary exterior shot of a residence, a much too long shot of a car with the license plate JFREDMUGGS, a brief interview with a Tampa newspaperman, and a foto identified as "what J.Fred might look like today". But did we see Muggs? No! Did we see an interview with his co-owner, Buddy Mennella ? No!

So the feud continues. Muggs was not invited back to the 40th anniv show. NBC lawyer Julie Sullivan did appear. Muggs also was ignored on the 30th anniv. show. NBC lawyer Julie Sullivan called the chimp "an orangutan", a "monkey" and other things, possibly because Muggs' owners had threatened to sue after an imposter filled in for him this year. Sullivan held up a contract and said Muggs' handlers crossed out a sentence stating that J.Fred and not some look alike would fly up to New York for an appearance.

So it would appear that, like old soldiers, old chimps never die, they just fade away. It would seem that this is a story "to be continued". When you are a persona non-grata on "TODAY", you are personna non-showa too. Perhaps J.Fred's only chance for equal time will be on Sally Raphael, or Geraldo. And watch the super market tabloids when you next go through the check-out counter..... Dan Grabel

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
TO PEACOCK NORTH**

she had spent a year under tight chaperoning as a Miss America winner and then after she joined the show every morning it was 23 men and a girl on Today. The ladies offered their impressions of Garroway: complex, gifted, beautiful. And one recalled the day they actually let loose a barrel of monkeys in the studio, with the expected results. Mayhem and dreck all over the place.

For some reason, which I could not fathom, the producer included three minutes of music by the Modern Jazz Quartet. It was their fortieth anniversary too, but was that a reason to include them in this reprise ? Maybe they were friends of Gumble? Then again with a new 26 year old executive producer, maybe he's too young to have experienced nostalgia and a three minute break might sedate the excited audience.

I didn't catch their bits, but Jim Fleming, the first newsman on, also Jane Pauley. And in the final Class photo, Betty Furness who had been a contributor to the show for the past 16 years, and Lew Wood moved into camera range. In that same wide shot, one old timer took a quick look at his wrist watch ? was it getting to be a bore ?

The final chit chat, with about 25 men and women chirping away included Tom Brokaw's honest and open remark, "I was proud to be on the show, and happy to be well paid." When "well paid" came out of his mouth, a couple of Today girls could be heard contesting that statement ! Hey, the rest of us would have all swapped paychecks with any of them !

So, year 40 goes into the record books. Topping it at 50 shouldn't be hard.... if they salt away the good spots for the archives... Dan Grabel

The word we get from inside the GE Building is that a new broom is sweeping clean at WNBC. **Bill Bolster** has checked in from St. Louis and is General Manager and Vice President, and talk is that the next flight of management will migrate from the same area. That's been pretty standard at the Company for eons, and probably throughout corporate America. Hey, if you don't hire your chums, you could leave a flank open to attack by ambitious strangers.

Bolster was the chap who gave **Betty Furness** her walking papers, and it seems he knew little of her background when they had their first talk. He offered the 17 year veteran an alternate job, reporting on consumer affairs once a week on the 6:30 am early bird local show that precedes the Today Show.

We understand **Gabe Pressman**, a 37 year fixture on local, had signed a contract before bolster came on the scene, or he too might have been axed.

Bret Marcus, who had been WNBC News Director, has been moved to the network with the title Senior Producer for Program Development. Of course guys with that title (N.D.) have traditionally lasted in the post for about 2 1/2 years. His acting replacement at the time we write this is **Paula Walker** of Local News.

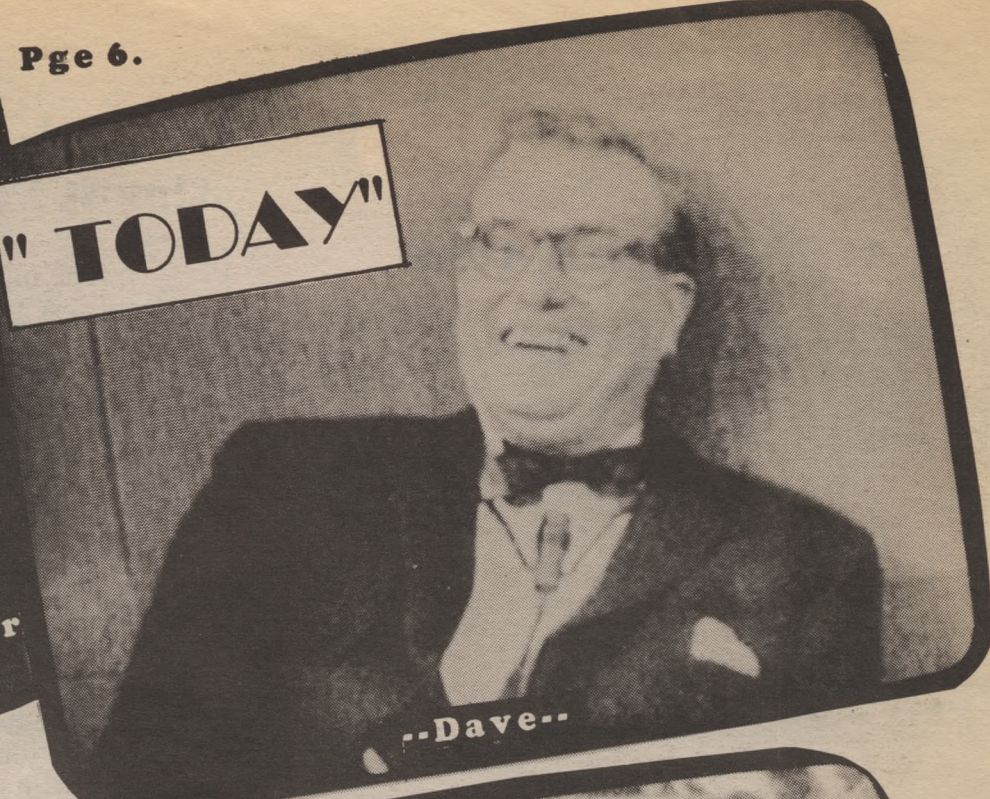
Dan Grabel



Dave and J.Fred -



Jim Fleming, 1st TODAY Newscaster

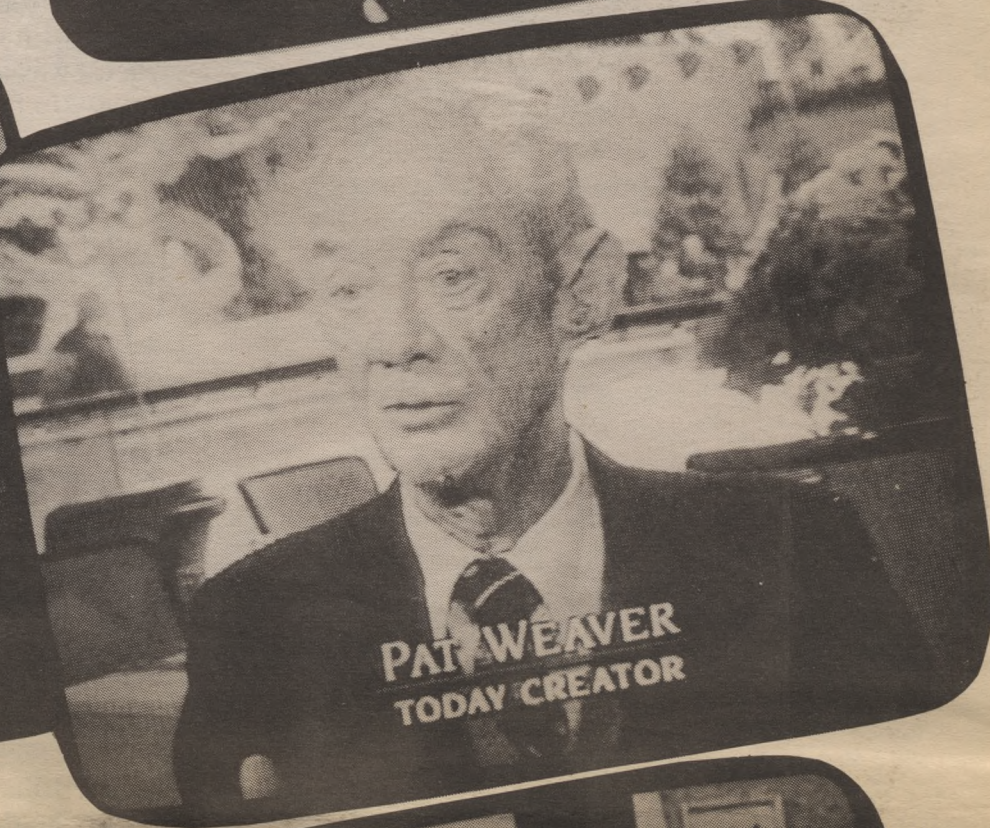


"TODAY"

--Dave--



Pat Weaver in 1952



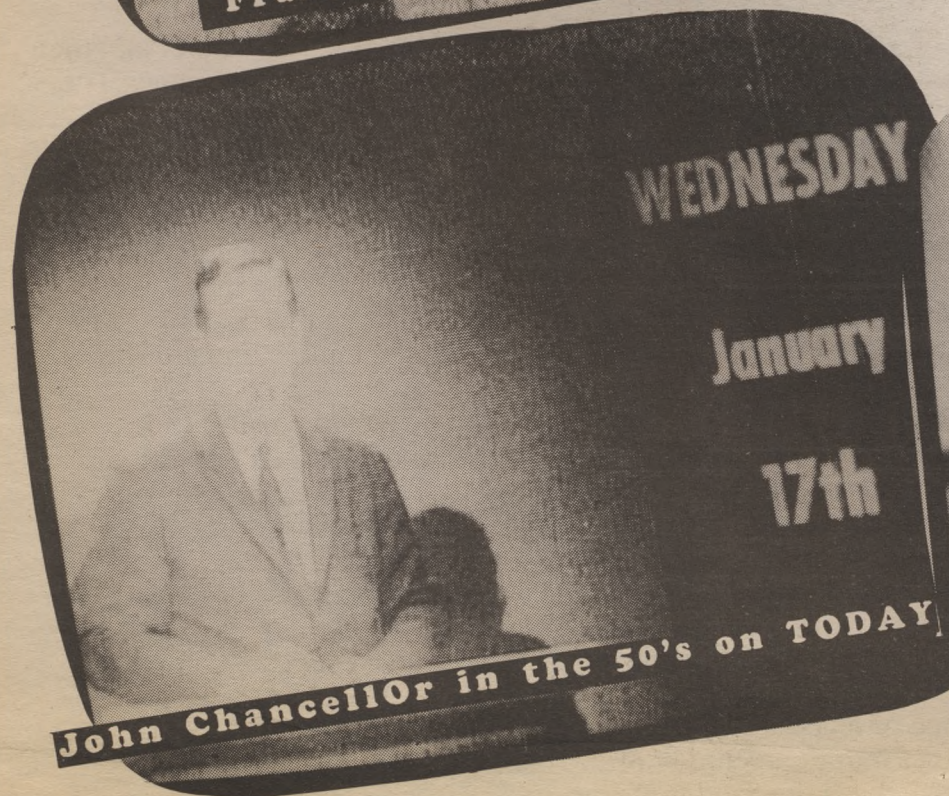
PAT WEAVER
TODAY CREATOR



Frank Blair, Newscaster plus

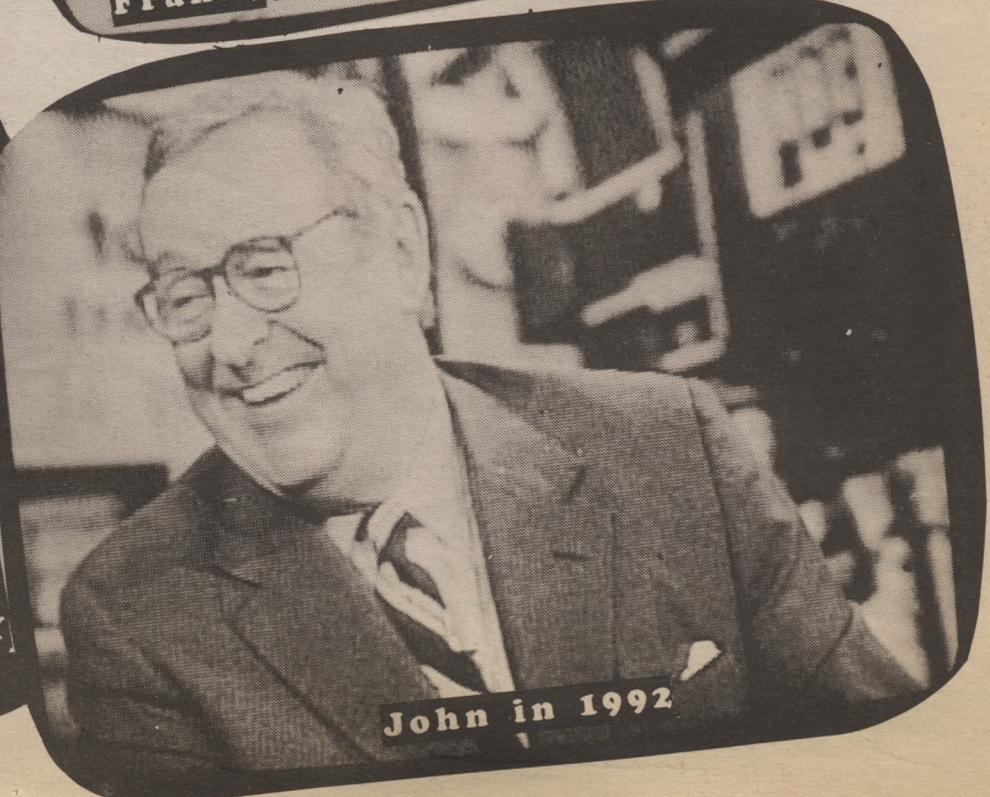


Frank, Betsey Palmer Jack Lecscoulie



WEDNESDAY
January
17th

John Chancellor in the 50's on TODAY



John in 1992



Jane Pauley



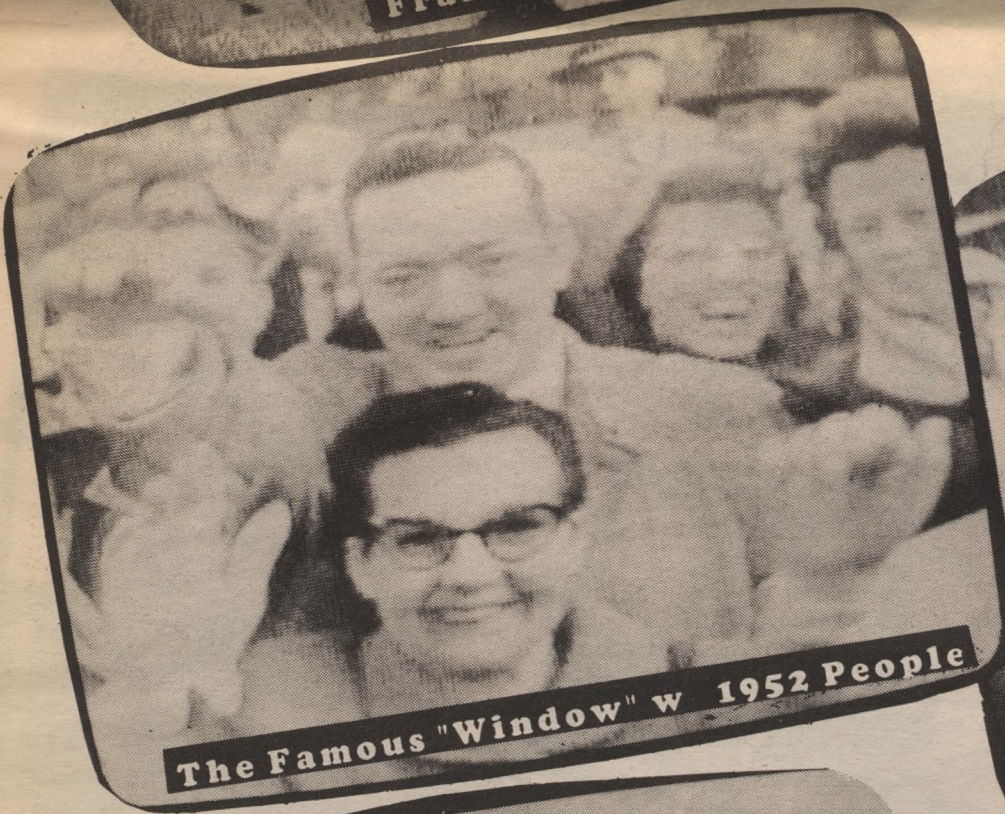
Jin Hartz



Frank McGee



Gene Shalit



The Famous "Window" w 1952 People



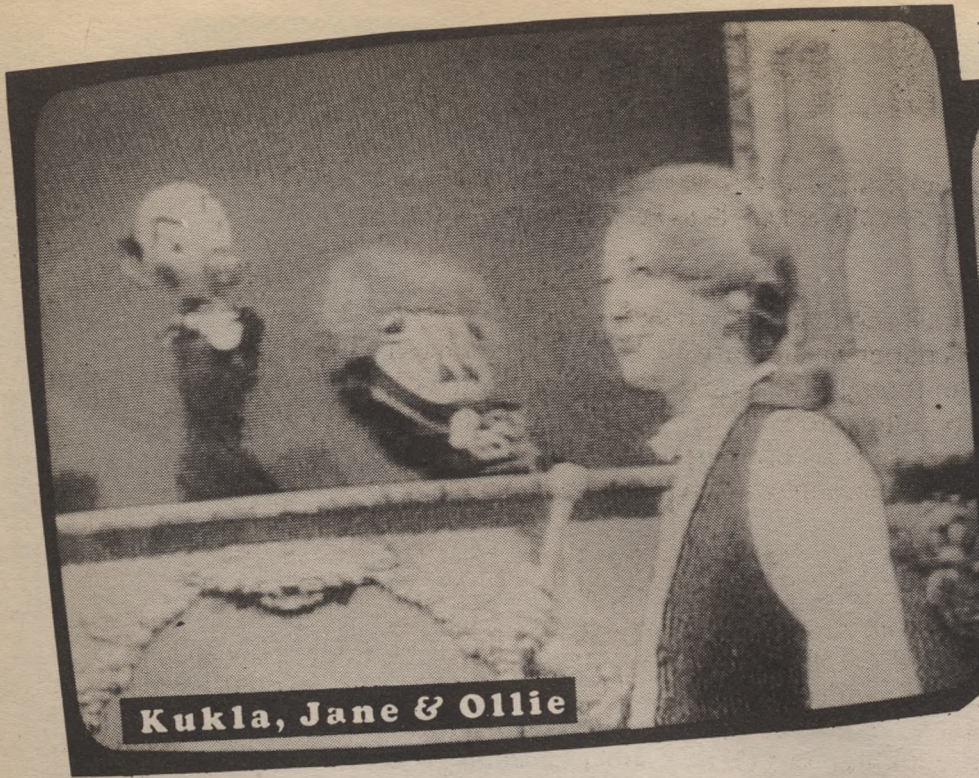
Pres Harry Truman at "the Window"



Big "D" and Small J. Fred



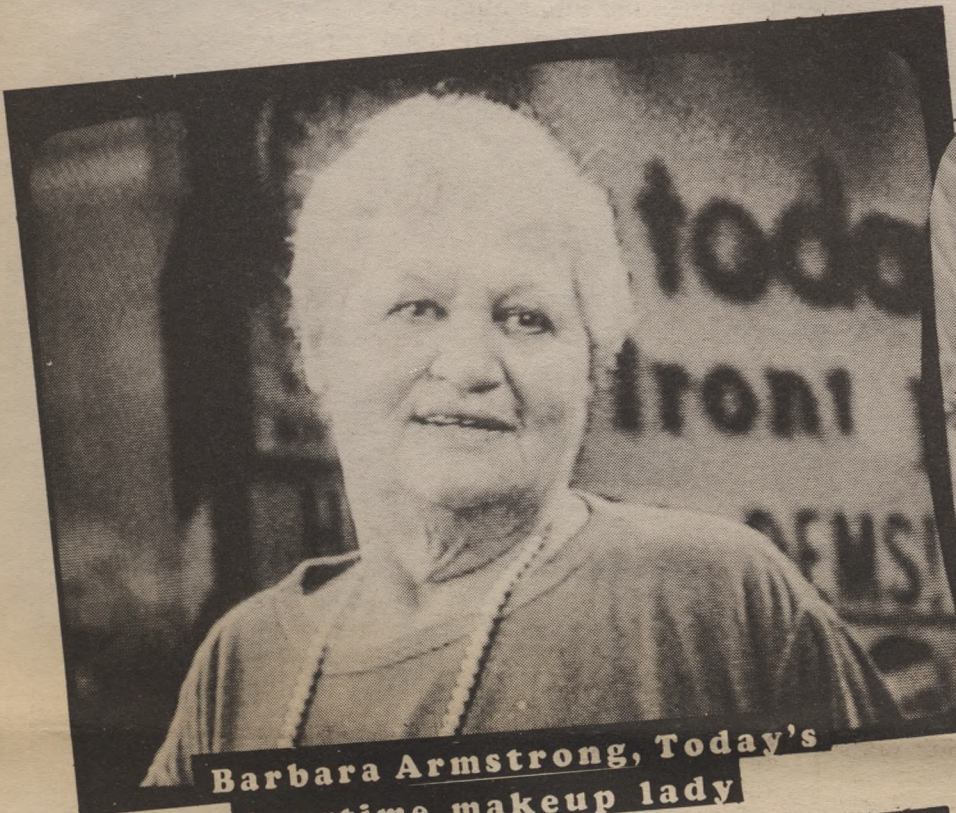
Joe Garagiola getting "Hip"



Kukla, Jane & Ollie



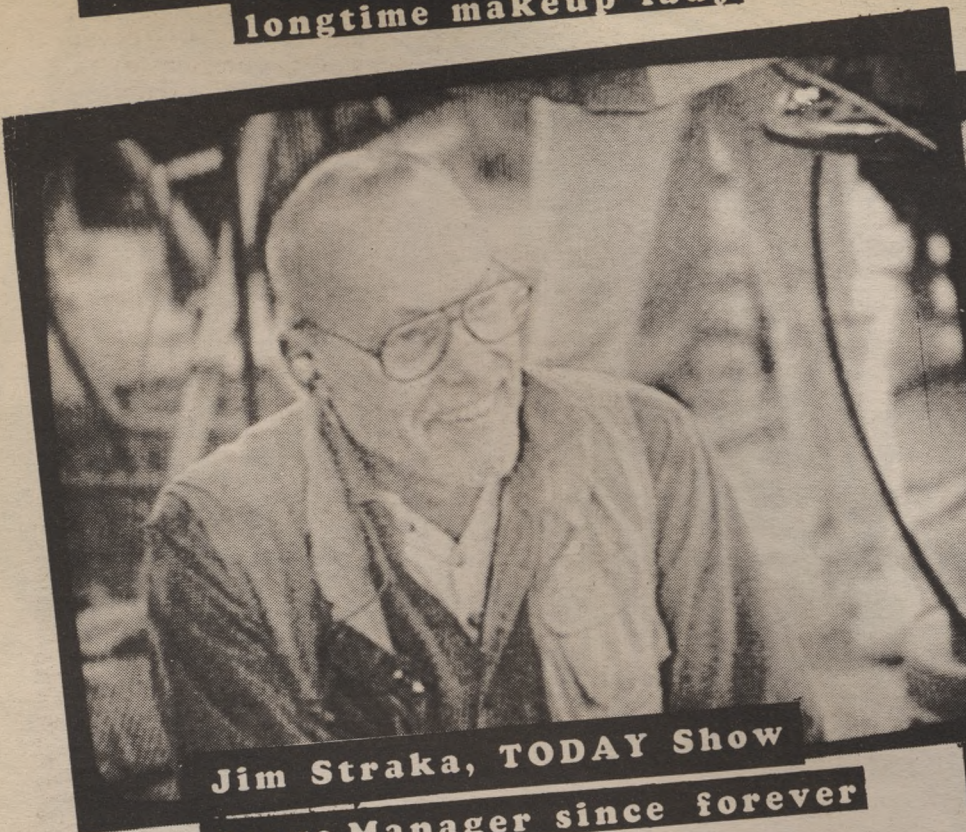
Jane + Bryant at Great Wall, China



**Barbara Armstrong, Today's
longtime makeup lady**



**David at "Communications Center"
Andy Wadell at the tape machines**

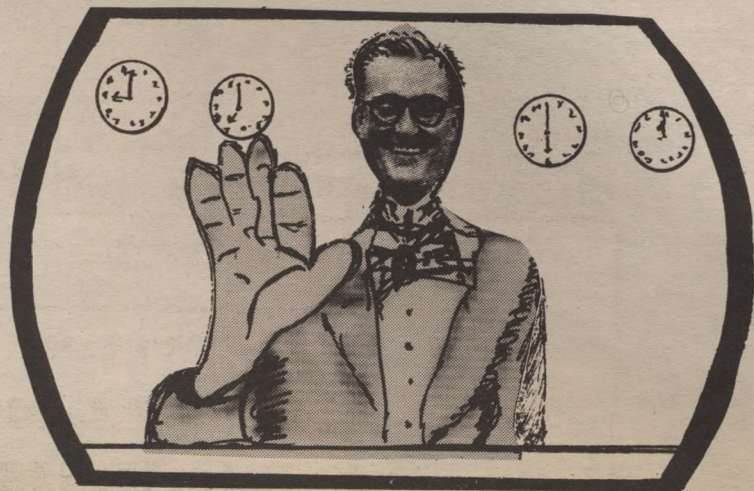


**Jim Straka, TODAY Show
Stage Manager since forever**



**Steve Bellis, longtime cameraman
on Today**

**These fotos came from
a tape, shot off
an ancient TV set which
I built in 1945!**
Heino



PEACE !

***Make Reservations NOW!
for La Maganette Luncheon**

MEMORIES ! FROM RALPH DICHTER

Dear Heino,
And all my friends from NBC:

I read and re-read my latest edition of PEACOCK NORTH and really enjoyed the many articles and pictures.

I started work at 30 Rock back in Sept 1948 and retired in June 1986. I put in 37.5 years so I guess I've earned a right to call myself an NBCite. I started out in KineRecording with **Herb DeGroot** and **Harry Getting** (May God rest their souls). Most of the guys who came after me, put in their time in Kine until they bitched loud enough or got another assignment and then moved on to greener pastures.

I too have fond, and not so fond memories of the past. When TV was all live, we in Kine recorded everything from **Ding Dong School** in the morning, all day up to **Broadway Open House**. That went from Miss Francis to Dagmar! What a change.

I enjoyed seeing **Charlie Tesser's** photo, while attending the last NBC 25 yr. affair. We were both in Kine at the same time and we worked on a project of our own that I think I still have somewhere. There was an old stag film making the rounds. We recorded Ding Dong School audio, and using the movieola, you can imagine the result. (All work and no play makes -----)

Some other things from my memory bank... We're recording a live program sponsored by Bonnie Maid linoleum. To show how tough it was and resistant to many things, they applied a blowtorch to their product, and guess what. Yes it caught fire. We had to do the comm'l over again after the show, and splice it in to the Kine. Another fond memory: We were recording a live show like Philco Playhouse or Montgomery Presents. To check out our equipment before recording the sound track, we would throw a switch to "check our bias". Well the operator responsible for that machine neglected to put the switch back into the record position and we lost the sound recording. When we discovered what had happened, they had to call back all the cast and the crew to do the 2nd half of the show over. The operator did not get fired, but was his face red. He is still among us I believe, and if he reads this article, it may bring back a fond - well, not-so-fond memory to him.

I've been attending the Florida Retirees get-togethers. I'm usually down in Fla. from Oct to May. Last year I wanted to get to one Peacock North's function, but couldn't work it out. I'll try again.

Working the crazy hours that most of us had to endure, and riding the dirty subways to get to work, was not the best of my memories; but getting stuck at work during one of the blackouts in New York City or working a long continuous tour when man first landed on the moon was one of my memorable memories.

I would have liked being up North when the TODAY Show celebrated its recent 40th anniversary. I bet a lot of the NABET guys who were associated with the show dropped in. I remember

A letter from **Sally Hein**, wife of **Jac Hein**, original TODAY Director, with a clipping from Sierra Vista Herald, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Dear PN,

Since the enclosed article appeared in the local "Sierra Vista Herald" news paper on January 15, 1992, I have talked with Marie Finnegan who thought those who were associated with TODAY from 1952 to 1958 would be interested. Marie has also given me more information. As I told Marie, there is an error in the article. My quote should have been, "All the equipment was huge. Doing a remote was really a monumental task".

Jac came to TODAY from Broadway Open House, featuring Jerry Lester and Dagmar. As TODAY lasted 3 hours live, it had two directors and Mike Zeamer worked with Jac as a director. In addition to the programming, all the commercials were live. It was the first show of its kind and a revolutionary concept.

Through those years, Jac always felt a close connection with those who worked with him on TODAY. It was a small group, interested in results, that enjoyed working together and supporting each other. During the first year or so, the show struggled to make it financially. Rumors circulated that it would go off the air. But Matthew J. Culligan came in and became responsible for selling the show and TODAY stayed on the air.

Yours along Memory Lane,
Sally Hein

For her, 'Today' provokes memories

The widow of **Jacque "Jac" Hein**, the original director of the Today Show, says her husband was a pioneer in the TV industry.

"He directed for four years and produced it for two years with Dave Garroway. Everything was shot live," Sally Hein of rural Sierra Vista recalled this morning.

She said cameras, microphones and other broadcast equipment were hooked together with a network of large cables. An assortment of "behind the scenes" people, such as her husband, made large contributions to the program's success.

"All the equipment was

Hein ...Continued from Page 1

huge," Sally Hein said. "It (producing the Today Show) was really a monumental type task."

The Today Show is celebrating its 40th anniversary this week.

Jac Hein's stint on the Today Show ended in 1958 when he left NBC to start his own public relations firm.

But not before he worked with comedian **Ernie Kovacs** and worked on a program that was a forerunner to the tonight show.



Jac Hein

"He even sat in the Oval Office with President Harry Truman," said Sally Hein.

The Heins moved to Sierra Vista in 1979. Jac Hein was a regular columnist in the Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review until his death in 1989.

She added that she still hears from people who were associated with the fledgling Today Show. A makeup person and camera man who worked on the early shows work on the program today, according to Sally Hein.

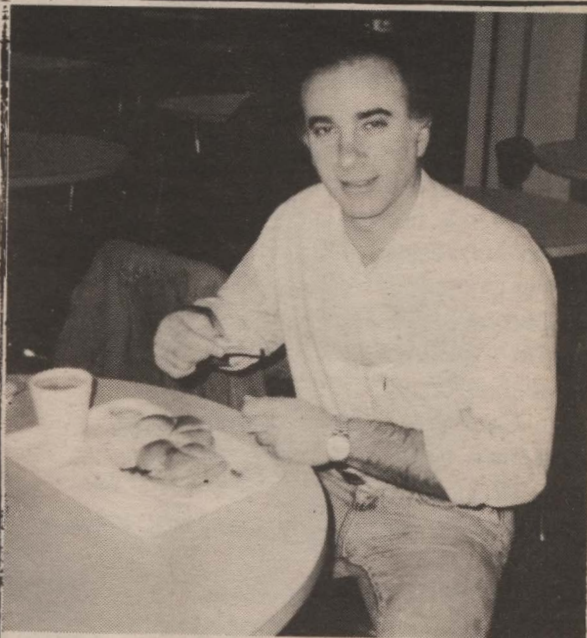
She added that many who appeared on the Today Show went on to successful television careers.

"Those people wouldn't be there if they hadn't had the encouragement from behind the scenes," said Sally Hein.

vividly when Dave Garroway came from Chicago to take charge of the new Show. - with J. Fred Muggs running around the set in the storefront with all the tourists and their signs held aloft for their families to spot back home. Those were the days !!!

It's always nice when the old timers get together and talk about all the shows that have come and gone since we worked at NBC.

Well, as the washerwoman brings her clothes to a line, I'll have to bring my line to a close. Nice talking to you Heino and hope to see you again in the near future. Regards to all my buddies. Sincerely, **RALPH DICHTER**



Dick Sansavere, T.D., enjoying a "nourishing meal" at NBC cafeteria

OVER 80 CLUB --
PLEASE Register TODAY,
With Pete, for FREE Membership !

BILL McCORD writes from San Diego:
To all the wonderful staff, most of whom I thoroughly enjoyed working with for 29 years. That doesn't sound right because all of you were *always* kind and helpful on every show we did together. Many, many thanks for past favors.

(Bill renewed his subscription) Tnx.
I think this January issue is one of the best, if not "The Best" ! I noticed that Roy Silver passed along my physical status, which was quoted. I really appreciated the item - and I hope many other "old timers" will learn to "exercise" during their plane trips. The doctors assure me that the lack of exercise in flight was my downfall. I do thank, and will thank Roy for reporting on and for me.

A couple of corrections in this months "People" section. I'm sorry to say I do not see Gene Hamilton, though we do have occasional correspondence. When I heard from him at Christmas, his arthritis was giving him hell, as it does to many of us.

Also I was not the announcer who made the announcement of Pearl Harbor. I believe it was one of the men at WRC, Wash, D.C. That day I was attending an NFL game at Washington's Griffith Stadium. (This was before RFK) The game was between the redskins and the Philadelphia Eagles.

No one will recall the score, but I was the guest of Ray Mitchell, the PA announcer. Ray was also on the Blue Network staff. All during the game, Ray, in addition to the football p.a. duties, was continually calling out for this General, this Admiral etc., which made us fans wonder what was happening. As I was dining at home after the game, I tuned in to WRC (NBC) and heard bulletin after bulletin break into a musical program (I forgot the name) which was featuring a beautiful singer named Lucille ---- (? I can't read the writing, sorry Bill- bad eyes -heino). It was to have been a big break for her. I had worked with her in 1940 -41 at WLW in Cincinatti and I felt badly that she couldn't have been given a better break. She did do more work on the net. I last saw her in studio 6A (NBC) where she was a guest.

One question came to mind re the Today Show special this past Tuesday night. I believe the first weatherman they had in 1952 from Washington, was Jim Fiddler. (Not the movie critic) Jim and I worked together at WLW during 1940 - 41, even living in the same rooming house. The last I heard of Jim was that he had moved to Texas, possibly Houston. If anyone knows about him, please let me know.

I really love the pictures you print. They sure do bring back pleasant memories.

I see by the Staff announcers that they are still "listening to themselves". (cupped ears) Ha ! Did the "Golden Voices" ever do differently ? Ha !

So many great names fill your pages from all segments of NBC. I think so fondly of every one I know.

Thanks for letting me carry on with my scribbles.

My best to you Pete, with thankful "hello's to Frankie, Dan, Ripp, George and Jerry, the ones I remember best.

Keep up the good work ! Happy New Year and Good Health to you all !

Most Sincerely,
Bill McCord

SUNDER DISCOVERS cont'd fm Pge 1.

at the piano and at least three or more female singers, a few of which I remember as **Adele Gerard** who played a real harp, a girl whom I think went under the name of **Margo**, and **Francy Laine**, who I believe had a three-legged dog. It was directed and produced by **Alan Handley** who had a very high sense of imagination. Each evening we would see him scrounging around in the third floor halls and men's' rooms for some interesting props that could be used on the show without increasing the already strained budget.

Unfortunately, Alan died last fall.

Johnny also worked the early morning NBC (WEAF) radio show along with **Bob Smith**, **Bill Cullen**, **Big Wilson**, etc. After "Easy Does It" closed, I would run into Johnny occasionally. I think it was the year Lyndon Johnson was inaugurated in Atlantic City that **David Gould** and I found him playing in a small hotel Bar. He worked several cruise ships and could also be found playing the cocktail hour at the Monkey Bar in the Hotel Elysee on 54th Street. We dropped in occasionally, but as the years went by, we never seemed to get back for one more visit.

At any rate, for some reason, my wife and I were in the neighborhood and we dropped in a few days before Christmas, and there he was playing and singing as usual - **celebrating his 50th year** at the Elysee. Fifty Years!..That's longer than **John Kenny** and **Jack Dolan** worked on the Johnny Carson Show when it was still in New York..

So, if you want to engage in a little nostalgia, drop in and see him. Give him a smile and mention "Easy Does It" -he'll probably break into a chorus of "Side by Side" (Oh-we ain't gotta barrel o'; mo-ney, etc.)

It's nice to know that in a changing world where we're not even sure of the stability of the Soviet Union that some things don't change and that Mr. Andrews is there turning them out just as in the old days when television was real fun !

.....**Jim Sunder**

CHARLES MANGANO, in Wichita at 2/7/92 Miss USA Pageant with former NBC folk sends us this pix. **Back row:**

1. **Chas Mangano** retired NBC '82 after 40 yrs; Dir of Communica-tions, BOC & Traffic Mgr.
2. **Ed Rossi**, NBC Unit mgr, ABC NY, then ABC LA, worked on EBU & Summer Olympics. Ret in '88. Ed & wife Linda (former sec'y to Jerry Madden, NY) reside in Chatsworth, Ca. Linda is former Linda Smith.
3. **Al Camoin**, NBC ace cameraman for 100 yrs, retired in '91, Lives it up in Fla., still does all the big stuff, involved with Coast Guard. Can't do *just nothin'*, and is my pal.
4. **Gail Rock**, writer on Today show plus various TV shows.
5. **Katie Jones**, AD for many, many NBC network programs.
6. **Carole Kohl**, coordinator, Assoc. Producer/coordinator for many pageants + host of NBC Network Programs.

Front Row:

7. **Tad Tadlock**, coreographer TV pageants 8 yrs; Tonite Show, NBC Thanksgiving Day, & Rose Bowl Parades + lots other Network pgms.
8. **Sid Smith**, producer Miss USA, Miss Teen, Miss Universe Pageant many yrs, produc'r tons of Bob Hope Specials etc, etc and a nice person besides.
9. **Jeanine (Kerwin) Tree** -writer, of 100 + public affairs pgms, NBC net, Asst to producer, Sat Nite Live, plus a sweet lady.



Top Row: Charles Magnano, Ed Rossi, Al Camoin, Gail Rock, Katie Jones, Carole Kohl
Bott Row: Tad Tadlock, Sid Smith, Jeanine Tree (Nee Kerwin)
All these folks won a trip to Bangkok, Thailand for the Miss Universe Pageant in May

MARIAN EISKAMP epistles from Tennessee. I trust you all had a good holiday season - now my problem is try to get rid of additional weight, which I most certainly don't need - but what the heck - the Christmas cookies were so good !

The paper was great as usual and I really loved seeing the pix from the 25 year party - when you don't get to go, this is the next best thing. I know we need to hear from the ones we don't hear from - instead of me, but maybe it will encourage others to send in pix - since it's TODAY'S 40th Anniv.. Here are a few from the past. One is in Florida - think we went there early 70's.. same for the other pix, which was TODAY IN CANADA -think it was early 70's too. I know I should have put dates on them, but who would have thought my memory would fail ? ? Ha! then too, I never thought I would be sending them someplace - anyway, Heino says look to the right and there are the photos..

Here's more news. **MARVIN EINHORN**, TV Director turned actor) finished a pic with Madonna, " A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN" and should be released in June - so we must look for him. Also, he just returned from Sarasota, Fl. where he was in "MY THREE ANGELS" at the very prestigious ASOLO PLAYHOUSE. So his acting career is moving right along.

We had a little snow in Tennessee last nite and it is really cold now (1/15/92). I had forgotten what it was like - brrrrr - a few days will do me fine, thank you. Am off to Florida in Feb. to visit with a friend in Tampa and then off to an ELDERHOSTEL. This will be my second one, and I'm looking forward to it. I love to get the brain working - alas, most of my reading (left to my own devices) consists of murder mysteries = entertaining but not much brainwork involved.

That's it for now. Hope to see you all again in 1992.

Regards, **Marian**



Pierre Trudeau and Marian Eiskamp



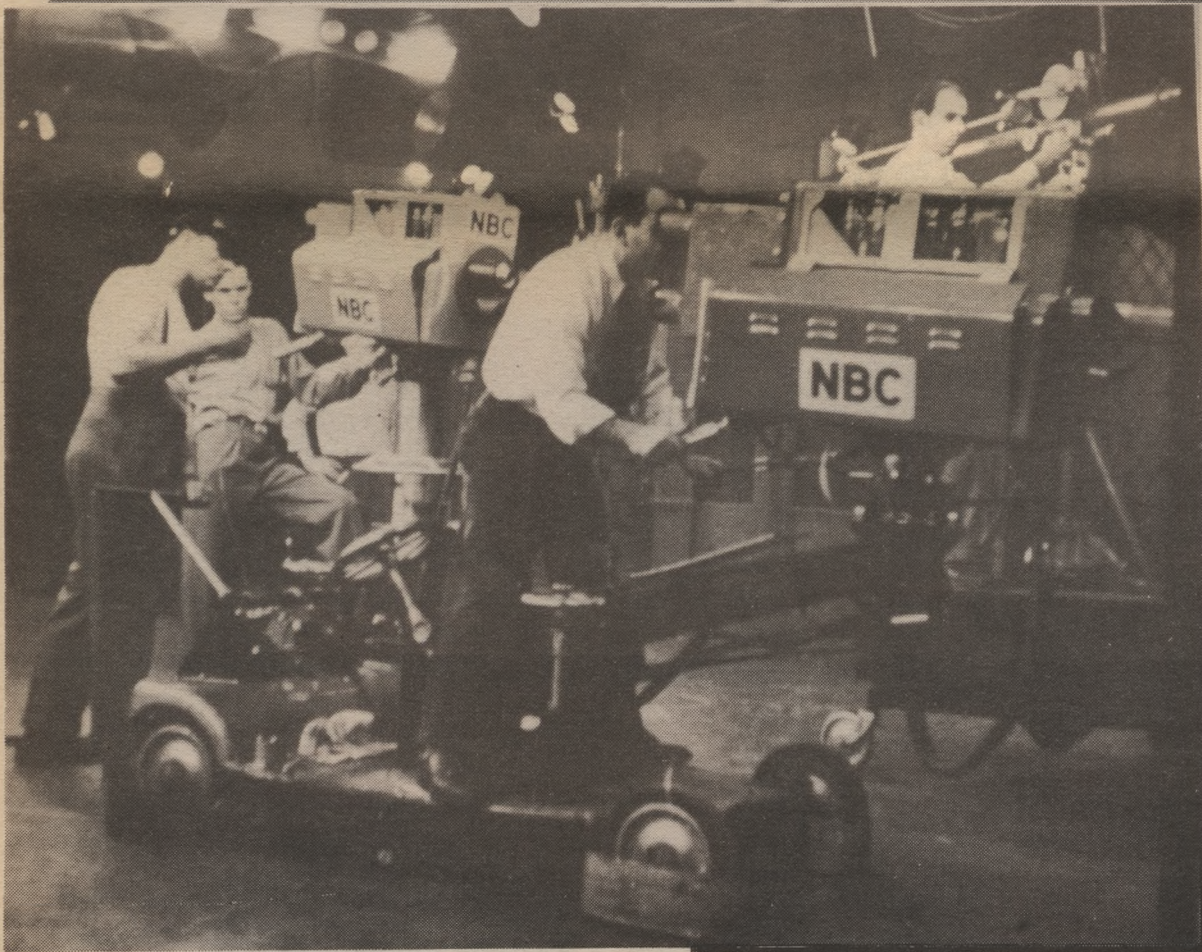
Pierre Trudeau testing Hugh Downs' reflexes (You're supposed to hit the Knee Pierre.)

**Join Florida NBCEtirees
Have Best of North & South**



" TODAY in Florida ". L to R;
Joanne Penizotta (Joe's sec'y), Joe Garagiola, Marian Eiskamp, Natalie Tiranno (Press Dept.)

" GOLDEN OLDIES "



At the Center Theater, corner 6th & 49th NBC televised many "big" productions in the 50's. (G.M. Anniversary Show, Godfrey MC, This is your life, Your Show of Shows, NBC Operas - Billy Bud, Macbeth, 4 Star Theater etc). It boasted 5,000 seats - a copy of Radio City Music Hall. **Jack Fitzpatrick** was a Lighting Director, and lighted many of the "biggies". Jack always carried a camera slung around his neck.... A few weeks ago, Pet had a visit with Mrs. Fitzpatrick. She dug out a few photos that Jack had taken. This one in particular interested me, for Fred Allen's radio show was the first big radio show I had ever been to, and even if it was the repeat for the west coast, I still loved it, and from that moment on, I found a niche in broadcasting. This photo, much enlarged, shows a very clever comedian, **Fred Allen**, tooting probably an Irish ditty for an always cheerful young fellow, one who lived his beliefs. Never did I ever hear from him a harsh word. Heino

Above:
The Philco Playhouse originated from 8G, Produced by **Fred Coe**...Here are old timers (l to r) **Henry Scott, Jack Coffey, Orlando Tamburri**, and on the Boom **Herb Oxman**, in 8G, where Donahue broadcasts from today

Below :----->

In the old day, doing a remote meant getting dirty and tired with hours of lugging heavy equipment before you could even turn on the power.... Left to rite: **Carlos Clark, Gary Iorio, O. Tamburri, Doc Potter, Frank MacArdle(?)**, **Mahlon Fox** and **Bill Waterbury**. No wonder the field had so many dropouts requestingsg studio work.[H.]





Our lovely ladies contingent at Piccolissimo Restaurant in New Jersey



" GOLDEN OLDIES "

From Jack Coffey's memory file.. Crew # 10, 1950 : Left to right ;
Jack Winocur (records), **Gene Frisch** (Cam 3), **Bill Kelly** (video), **Vic Ferrari** (Dolly),
Dick Davis (Boom 1), **Jack Coffey** (Cam 1), **Keith Martin** (Boom 2)



Wilbur Hildreth, Billy Goetz, Irv. Messing and Eddie Band at last
 Piocolissimo Mini Lunch



The new cafeteria at NBC, 30 Rock. Too bad we don't have color,
 for it does look spiffy !

RE: LETTERS and articles sent to us for use.

1. We gratefully accept anything you think is of interest for our members.
2. Send pictures to Heino, for they have to be processed so they can be printed. Receipt ahead of time lets me get a jump on the next issue. As you know, all pictures will be returned. They may not be used in the next issue, depending on what subjects etc. we use, and space demands.
3. In any articles, we reserve the right to edit as is necessary. I'll do my best not to change it nor the gist of what of said, but space and layout is more complicated than it may seem. Lots of bits and pieces get juggled like a puzzle, requiring shrinking, deleting, rewording etc to fit into any given page. Same for photos.
In some articles, I have not copied them into the computer, but I've used the original material to give you a feeling of the material. (for ex: Frank Freiler's handwritten letter, Greg Garrison's letter, and Enid's long history, which many of you were an intricate part of..)
4. Thanks for your interest and patience, and keep those letters coming.... Heino

MORE..... "LETTERS"

JAMES L. HOLTON writes I have an answer to my neighbor **Chet Hagan's** question which appeared in the caption on P. 16 of January PN.. [one sole correspondent, in a vast empty Burbank TV studio].

I've already told Chet that **Ed Arnow** was using that big Burbank studio for a radio broadcast because the "senior" medium was an orphan in Los Angeles environs of broadcasting after NBC sold the old KFI radio studios at Hollywood & Vine. That left NBC Radio without broadcast facilities there when the TV network moved to Burbank several centuries ago.

Consequently, those of us working in radio news had to beg, borrow or steal any space we could (plus **Johnny Pawlek** the only engineer with radio experience) when events justified special originations from Burbank in later years. In this case, the only place available happened to be this big studio (for which the bookkeepers mercifully did not charge NBC radio the standard rate).

Let me join so many other peacock veterans in my commendation to those involved in putting out the PN. Its appearance in the mail box is always a welcome sight. **Jim**

[the huge ? staff of the PN Newsletter take a deep bow and thank you for the applause. We appreciate knowing that someone actually reads it and will continue trying to tweek a fond memory here and there. Thanks, Jim., H.]

10/Nov/92
Hello Pete: Thanks for the reminder!
I'm going on 83 now and have the usual forgetfulness attributed to that age. But am up and around, and taking my daily walks, weather allowing!
Have been active with the "Ham club" out here and we put on the first 3 Sport Festivals in the country. Help from home of Denver, Pueblo and our neighborhood. I'm not active as a "ham" anymore. Have donated all my equipment to worthwhile charities who can use it!
I spend some of my time visiting reunions of our old army outfits of WW2. Its great to see some of the old familiar faces again. Hope to attend one of our army reunions in June in Fla. Why does NBC hold theirs in March when we are buried in ^{snow} and have difficulty attending?
Well Pete, say hello to the gang for me, and I invite them to visit me if they ever visit Colo. I had one NBC visitor several years ago, but I'll be damned if I can think of his name, as I write!
Regards to the gang!

As ever,
Frank "Quire" Freiler

"LETTERS"

[Written by Joe Meehan]

Dear Pete,

You certainly are right, The Peacock North issue was a smash. I don't know any other publication which stops me in my tracks whatever I'm doing and forces me to sit down and devour every page. It's a real winner.

We've had an incredible, hectic holiday time. My youngest son, Michael, 25, got married in September in Moscow where he has been for good parts of the last few years. He's been trying to start his own import-export firm. He married a lovely young Russian girl and brought his bride home for Christmas. She speaks very little English. We had scheduled a wedding reception for them Dec.27 at the Inn at Pound Ridge, not too far from here, and her mother came over for the affair. She speaks even less English. So we got along with her in a rough form of French and my son filled in the rest. The mother, incidentally, is foreign editor of Izvestia, so we had some interesting conversations. I also arranged for her to have a briefing with the foreign editors of AP which everyone enjoyed. The wedding reception was a big job, including Russian friends of mine from the U.N., and we had a lovely but overwhelming holiday time. They are all now back in Moscow. Best regards... Joe

Welcome ! New Members

Basil, Peter
Bracco, Mildred
Brandt, Mel
Coffey, Jack
Engler, Noel
Jones, Clark
kruggrant, Lauren
Mullen, James F.
Nash, Joseph
Rossi, Edward
Roth, Enid
Schlosser, Herb
Smiley, Tom
Sternfeld, Mary
Sternfeld, Manny
Stonebridge, Geraldine
Trautwein, John
Williams, Doris

**HAVE YOUR FRIENDS
JOIN PEACOCK NORTH !**

GREG GARRISON PRODUCTIONS, INC.
1655 HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91360
(805) 495-8197
FAX (805) 495-8388

February 26, 1992

Mr. Heino Ripp
PEACOCK NORTH
30 Ann Arbor Place
Closter, New Jersey
07624

Hey, Ripp ...

Remember me? Garrison. Sure you do ... SHOW OF SHOWS 1950-51. You saved my tail many a time. I would call for camera two and suddenly there appeared camera one on the screen with a perfectly composed shot of Sid and Imogene because camera two had the 135mm lens close-up of a chorus girl's seamed stocking in perfect focus. You remember seamed stockings and lenses before zooms. Some of us are still around and remember those great old days ... it's me ... Greg Garrison. Start telling some old stories. They are probably going to be exaggerated a little but at least you will have some fun. Come to think of it, they may not be exaggerated ... and I know you will have some fun.

KATE SMITH ... the Hudson Theatre 1950-51. SHOW OF SHOWS ... the International Theatre 1951-52. KATE SMITH, the hour night time show ... Center Theatre 1952. BERLE ... bless him ... 1953-54. My claim to fame is that I was the one who took the whistle away from him. I also rigged the "pools" as to how many times he would stop during dress rehearsal. One afternoon he got to 106 as he was doing his corny good nights ... I had 110 ... I stopped him four times in the closing good nights to win \$22.00 in the pool! Great days. Great fun. Great people. Milton was a great sport. Kate was a great lady. Ted Collins was a great sportsman. Sid and Imogene and, of course, Max ... dear Max Leibman. I learned a lot from that man. He was a great teacher and a wonderful man. He is the only one I knew who used to get his hair piece trimmed every two weeks! He said it made him feel good. The only problem was, he kept switching hair pieces and we never knew it until years later when he had too much wine at Sid's 50th Birthday party and confessed!

After I finished with Milton in 1955 I came out here and I have been a fixture ever since. I guess you know I have been with Dean Martin for the last 28 years. He doesn't do much any more ... but then again, neither do I. He plays Vegas three times a year ... I go along and play Blackjack. How's this for a great showbiz story? We're partners ... no contract ... no lawyers ... a handshake. Is that a great man? You bet he is. The sweetest, kindest, nicest I ever knew ... anywhere ... anyplace.

PGE 2.

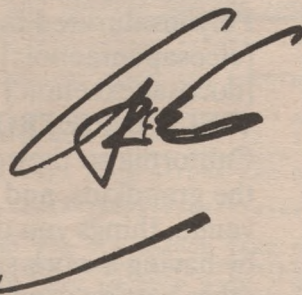
You know, I keep looking at your newsletter ... seeing all the great faces and reading the great names ... Gene Martin ... Inid Roth ... Rick Kelly ... Peggy Rogers-Daniels ... Hank Frisch ... Garth ... Smiley ... Bill Flood ... Arnie ... the Moose ... Bobby Galvin ... Bill Kelly ... Zampino ... Don Shirley. It was a great part of my life.

You know, I was on staff, actually, in 1950. I was the hot shot Pat Weaver brought out from ABC in Chicago. They had me up on the 8th floor doing some campus hoopla show or another. Summertime came and Ernie Walling and Leonard Hole called me down to their office ... they said they wanted to put me on hiatus for the summer. I thought that was terrific. I had never heard that word before and I thought it was a vacation. I think I was making a big \$225.00 a week. A couple of weeks passed and my check didn't come. I called up and asked, "Where's my check?" "You're on hiatus", I was told. "I know ... but where's my check?" The lady on the phone was very gracious. She nicely explained that hiatus meant "I was stiffed by NBC". I think we have all experienced that at sometime over the past 40 years. So I left to freelance ... I guess I was one of the lucky ones.

I don't know how I got to be so lucky but I got your last edition. So, Ripp ... I guess I want to join. List me under new members and let me know what I have to do to sign up ... and I will write from time to time.

Greg Garrison

GG/pm



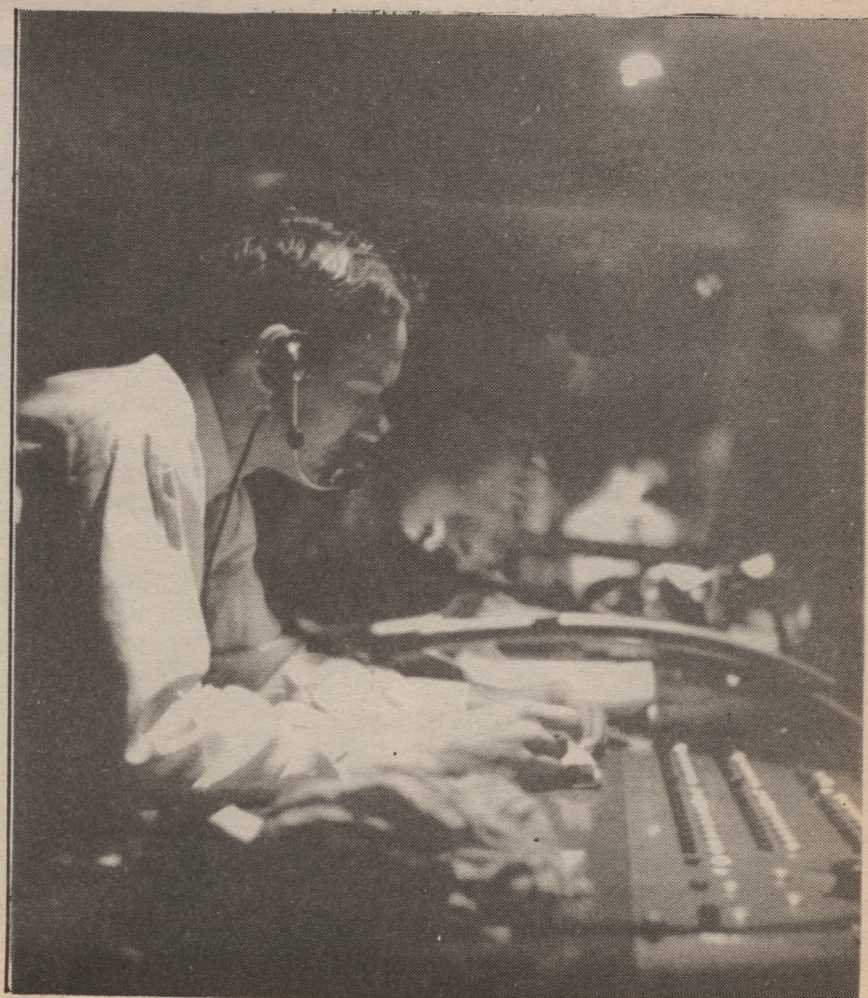
*Silent Microphones
P.N.- Regrets To Announce
The Recent Passing Of
Shelly Frisch,
Wife Of Gene Frisch.*



Dave Wilson at his old stand in 8H directing Saturday Nite Live. Heino f.g.



A few years ago, From Sat Nite Live - Left to Right:
Jan Kasoff (Enchante), Retired L.D. Maury Verschore
Mike Bennett, Retired Al Camoin, John Pinto



Joe Waag, T.D. learning Russian during a quiet moment
Or - is it Arnie Dick reading the new TK41 manual ??

Book Review for P.N.

Page 16.

By Don Meaney

"Fighting For Air"

In the Trenches with Television News by **Liz Trotta**,
Simon & Schuster, 375 pp. plus index \$ 22.95

"GREAT REACTION HERE PROFESSIONALLY
AND IN PRESS VERY GOOD, PROUD OF YOU,"
HUNTLEY.

Liz Trotta reported on the first Vietnam Battle. "The enemy offensive... main road to Saigon... Now in full retreat... height of Tan Hinh battle... reporting from NBC News correspondent Liz Trotta," as Huntley led off that night. The fight raged on, Huynh Vo filming all the way... huddled behind sand bags, scratching notes between incoming rounds... mortars crashing nearer. Finally, climbing out of the hole, Trotta did a crouching stand-upper to close her story. Now it was time to move the film to Saigon and CBS, ABC and NBC were all fighting to get their stories out. Trotta won by talking a general into offering his chopper. Feminine wiles? You bet it was, but that was how to make Huntley-Brinkley in a war.

In Liz Trotta's book, **FIGHTING FOR AIR**, she tells briefly how she can write, how to report under what conditions and get the story out, and finally, nearly as important, how it was to be the first woman war correspondent.



Don Meaney

Everything wasn't so rosy, however. At the prospect of her being assigned to Saigon, the bureau chief announced that he'd be on the first plane back home if they sent a woman there. Trotta managed to change that view, to a degree. "Lots of drive... wants to be treated particularly as a woman correspondent... neutral drive and she looks good... I still wouldn't want a woman out there."

And from a news boss, "God, let's pray they keep her." She'd been locked up for battling the Phillipine army in Manila, one of many, many such battles in many, many corners of the world.

She got another great story in Tabriz, Iran; went to Singapore to cover 18 countries; to the Khyber Pass to cover the Pakistan-India war; to Bangladesh; to Korea; to starving children in the African desert. Finally being a woman paid off when Golda Meir took her question in the face of demanding male reporters. Ladies first. On the Grenada war, where she beat a highly-paid male correspondent, and of course, Paris and London. It was there she got the idea through. Executives marched in and fired one partner from Saigon days. An executive vice-president let her know who might be next. "Nobody back here wants you."

She came back to New York assigned to local news, where she had started, but found she couldn't stand it, and when CBS offered a job in 1979, she grabbed it. A big "hello" from Walter Cronkite, but the business changed and Dan Rather had different ideas.

She stayed a bit, but then a producer had to tell her, "You're fired." Middle-aged lady reporters are not hot commodities in the new world, she learned.

And that's about it. A very good book

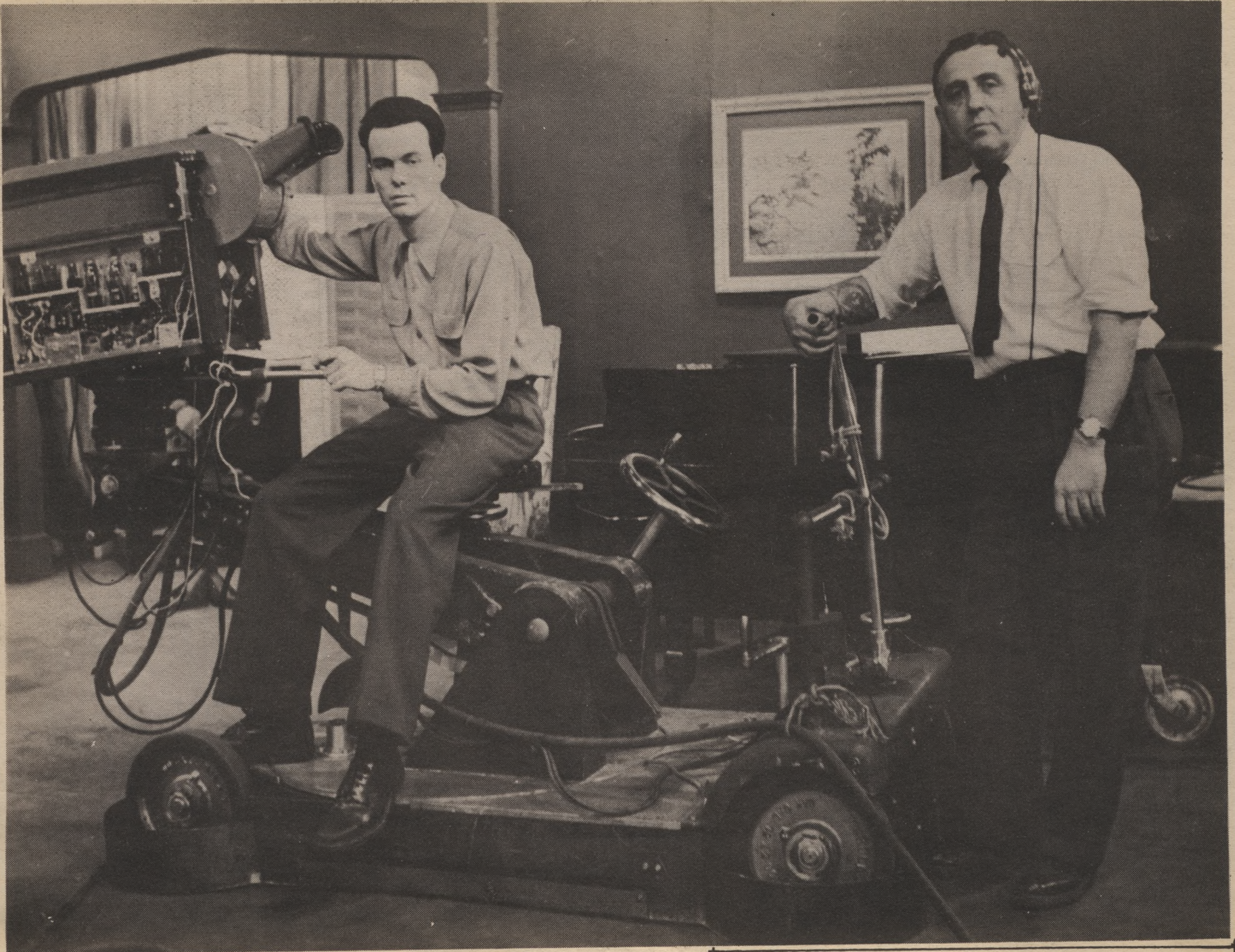
Don Meaney



This pix loaned to us by Bill Dellanoy: Recognize all, but apologize not remembering all the names. But, L to R: **Bill Dellanoy**, - ? ? -, **Jack Flynn**, chief Engineer of WEA, - ? ? -, **Andy Switzer**, **Jerry Cudlipp**, - ? ? -, and **Ed Taffe** at the Transmitter site must be around 1949/50... This student group were briefed by Jack Flynn, another *foine* gentleman!

MORE PEOPLE :

JERRY CUDLIPP had a heart attack on March 7th. Is currently recuperating at home. He indicates things are OK and expects to attend the Mini Lunch at Picco Lissimo on Tuesday April 7. Nancy, take good care of Jerry please. Feed him a lot of Super MaxEPA. (Omega Polyunsaturated fatty acids EPA [eicosapentaenoic] and DHA [docosahexaenoic] acid. Vouddn't hoit! **VINCE DiPIETRO** recently moved to California so they could be closer to the grandkids, and needed a change of venue, things you do when not governed by having a work schedule. However, it takes getting used to for he misses the East Coast PN'ers and other friends that one gets used to after 40 years. So - He lives in Glendale, California (near Los Angeles).. Would appreciate hearing from any of his old friends. Telephone No. is 818: 241 -9264.



Jack Coffey, on the Fearless Dolly and my old friend, Vic Ferrari, his chauffeur - per oggi.

Bob Brown Annx's Golf Spring Classic

Bob Brown, Steve Skroupka, and John Thomas are having their annual NBC Spring Golf Classic this year at High Mountain Country Club, Franklin Lakes N.J. This xerox leaflet describes it all. Call the ones indicated, using the NBC extension indicated. If you are a retiree you can also call **Irving Messing** at 201: 797-4404 for a reservation. Last year's turnout was terrific, and The organizers want to welcome the retirees to enjoy the day with them. Tempus fugits, so check the cutoff date..(Gene Martin)

NBC Spring Golf Classic



HIGH MOUNTAIN COUNTRY CLUB
FRANKLIN LAKES N.J.
THURSDAY MAY 28
9:30 TEE OFF

\$95.00 PER GOLFER INCLUDES:
*ROUND OF GOLF WITH CART !
*LUNCH AND BEVERAGE AT THE TURN !
*PITCHER OF BEER !
*STEAK DINNER AT THE CLUB !
*GIFTS ON THE FIRST TEE !
*TROPHIES AND MORE GIFTS AWARDED
TO NBC GOLFERS SENIORS AND GUESTS !
*LOCKER AND SHOWERS !

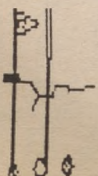
COME EARLY...DRIVING RANGE AND PUTTING GREEN AVAILABLE !

[A \$40.00 NON- REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS !
CUT-OFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS MAY 22. 12 NOON / PROPER ATTIRE
REQUIRED**no jeans,t-shirts sneakers etc.** ALL GOLFERS
MUST ARRIVE 1/2 HOUR BEFORE TEE OFF !!]

DIRECTIONS: FROM THE G.W.BRIDGE TAKE RT. 4 WEST ONTO
RT. 208 NORTH APX. 15 MILES./EXIT EWING AVE AND
MAKE LEFT AT STOP SIGN./ STRAIGHT PAST BLINKING
LIGHT-PAST ANOTHER REGULAR LIGHT-THEN APX 300 YARDS
ON YOUR LEFT.

CONTACTS:BOB BROWN X-0408 5A-11A M-F
STEVE SKORUPKA X-2222
JOHN THOMAS EJ X-5337

DEPOSIT CHECKS:TO BOB BROWN OR STEVE SKORUPKA
PLEASE INCLUDE REQUEST OF STARTING TIME.....



CHIP
SHOT

CONTESTS INCLUDE BEST SCORES-18 HOLES
LONGEST DRIVE
2-CLOSEST TO PIN
BEST PUTTER-18 HOLES
[OPTIONAL CASH CONTEST FOR ABOVE****]



Peacock North Newsletter
is printed at



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

**'Make Reservations NOW !
for La Maganette Luncheon**

Ken's Korner

MAKE BELIEVE BALLROOM AT NBC

A couple of years after returning to NBC after World War II, I was assigned to a radio show in Studio 8-D, entitled the "Robert Q. Lewis Show". The show consisted of Robert sitting at a table with a gooseneck mike and an engineer in the studio with three turntables connected together so the records could be played in rapid succession. Robert and I got along great, however when Paul Gallant said I would have to leave the show for another assignment, Robert objected, until he learned that I was to be assigned to the new Martin Block show which was "The Make Believe Ballroom", broadcast from the RCA building by phone line to WNEW on Fifth Avenue. He agreed saying, he had so much respect for Martin Block, and did not want to do anything to upset Martin. Martin Block was considered King of the DJ's.

At this point, it is necessary that I explain how the show came to Radio City. Over the years, a running battle between the musicians union, Local 802 under the supervision of Caesar Petrillo, and the engineers union NABET, formerly ATE, The Assn of Technical Engineers, over who would play the records on the NBC owned and operated stations. After many court cases, the engineer's union won the case, except for the station in Chicago, where, because of the long time practice, the musicians union won the right to play records.

Unknown to many of us, Martin Block was the producer of a new show, The Chesterfield Supper Club starring Perry Como, to be done in studio 6-A in Radio City on NBC. Since the Supper Club would be on the air at the time as the Make Believe Ballroom, it became imperative that Martin do his WNEW show in the close proximity of The Chesterfield Supper Club in Studio 6-A.

NBC willingly provided a small room that now is the Green Room for the Letterman's late night show. It was complete with a small desk, four chairs and a large standing ash tray. WNEW provided their own engineering equipment. Martin was quite satisfied, but he was mistaken in thinking he would play his own records as he had been doing at WNEW. He was perturbed upon learning from NBC that NABET, the engineer's union would play the records. He had no choice, as there would be no way he would be permitted to play his records. However NABET permitted him to bring his own WNEW studio engineer to operate the portable console, which he did.



Paul Gallant assigned me to stop up to meet Mr. Block about a week before the show was to start. Paul told me to see if I could convince him that things would work out, if he would just give it a try. I met Mr. Block and told him that I had considerable experience with records, but I knew that no one could be as adept with the way *he* spun his own records. I told him I was sure I would do a satisfactory job, however if he was displeased, he could ask for another engineer, and he could keep doing this, but in no way would the Union agree for him to play his own records. He was reluctant, but decided to try it out. Actually he had no other choice.

After a few days of working with each other, and watching to see what Martin wanted, such as knowing what was on the other side of each record while it was playing, I could answer him correctly when he questioned me. We began to develop an affinity for each other. His WNEW engineer Jack Monroe and his producer, a young man named Bob Smith proved to be great people to work with.

I considered it an education to work with Martin, who while running the Perry Como Show and the Make Believe Ballroom also ran the Johnny Johnston show on CBS via the phone lines in the studio at NBC. He conducted much of his financial business in the studio in front of we three, Jack Monroe, Bob Smith and myself. I learned how he made his deals. This was done between his announcements and the records that were playing.

From time to time, many important people from "Sho-Bis" would drop in and visit with Martin, especially those in the music industry who had records to promote. If it was played on the Make Believe Ball Room, it soon became a hit record. At one time, the mother of Debbie Reynolds spent the two hours speaking with Martin. Unfortunately, I never did know what that conversation was about. Martin told me he only went as far as eight grade, and was self educated. He employed a young woman who was college educated, especially in English and grammar. The whole time he was on the air, she remained in the WNEW studios available for any questions that Martin would ask. As he read thru the commercial scripts he would ask her for the pronunciation and meaning of the words, then go on the air with full confidence of what he was reading. He never thanked her, and explained that away by saying "I pay her enough so that I don't have to thank her". On weekends when we were off, Martin and Max Weiner the chief engineer of WNEW and myself, would be on the 10 meter ham band. Martin's ham call sign was W2MGE, which he referred to as "Wasting Too Much Good Energy". He told me that his wife insisted that Martin put in a separate entrance to his ham shack, as she did not want all his ham friends traipsing through the house. Martin told me he had three children, and he was going to stop having anymore kids, as he spends \$100,000. for each in annuities.

From time to times, he would do strange things, such as taking a small screwdriver out of his pocket and proceeded to dismantle the microphone he was using. In fact on one occasion he was unable to get the microphone back together and told me to keep playing the records until he was thru reassembling it, then he told his listening audience he was giving them a bonus with no commercials.

Another time he took a roll of bills out of his pocket that was wrapped with a rubber band, the way the late Stoddard Dentz kept his. When I asked him if he wasn't afraid of being mugged, he reached inside his coat and produced a German Lugar pistol, and proceeded to fire it into the NBC ash tray in the corner of the room. The sound was so deafening, none of us could hear for about five minutes.

Many times he would lather his face with shaving cream and shave while the records were playing. One time comes to mind when WNEW called Martin on the phone to advise him they were taking the Ballroom off the air to put on a bulletin, and would not return to his program. The reason was to announce the news that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had just died in Warm Springs, Georgia. With that, Martin jumped up and said to we three in the studio, "We are off the air" and to come to studio 6-A. We followed him and he immediately went to one of the microphones and announced to the studio audience the passing of Pres. Roosevelt. I am sure NBC had already lifted the Perry Como program off its network, but the studio audience was not aware of this tragedy. He appeared onstage with shaving cream on one side of his face and the other side shaved clean. I am sure he felt his appearance gave the sense of immediate shock he intended.

Immediately after Martin's announcement, Perry Como sang the most stirring rendition of the Lord's Prayer I have ever heard. I could not believe that the entire orchestra seemed to play as if it had been rehearsed.

A few weeks later, Perry Como was ill and could not appear for the show, and Martin called Frank Sinatra and asked him if he would fill in for the ailing Perry. Of course Frank was happy to so and did fill in. A week or so later, Martin told me that Frank would visit with us in our little studio, and Martin wanted to show me and our two other workers what he had for Frank. He handed me a gold watch the same size as a silver dollar in thickness and round. The watch had the regular hour and minute hands but the second hand was as large as the minute hand. When one pressed the stem winder crown, a second hand would stop, and if you pressed it a 2nd and 3rd time it would leave a second hand at each place. Consequently one was able to see how a horse race ended with the three leading horses...To say the least I was amazed when he handed it to me. I turned it over and saw it was engraved "To Frank Sinatra with thanks MB". I asked, was the MB for Make Believe Ballroom or

POET'S CORNER POET'S CORNER

[Two Poets]

In this anniversary of the Columbian
Voyage, Two Peacock North'ers Wax
Peotical !

AN "OWED" TO THE NEW YEAR

In fourteen hundred ninety-two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue...
A trip to prove his theory sound:
The world's not flat but really round.

In NINETEEN hundred ninety-two
If Chris should sail the ocean blue...
He'd make a discov'ry that:
The world indeed is FLAT. BROKE that is!

So All of us should now have learned
We should not spend what we've not
earned,
And Uncle Sam in ninety-two
Should cease to run on I.O.U. !!

Vic Roby
Dec 27, 1991

When C.C. sailed the ocean blue
Way back in 1492
He never dreamed that thjere would be
A Flagship known as NBC.

And if he sailed that route Today,
No doubt in search of RCA
The only letters he would see -
Not RCA, but G and E.

Dick Dudley (Rockabye)

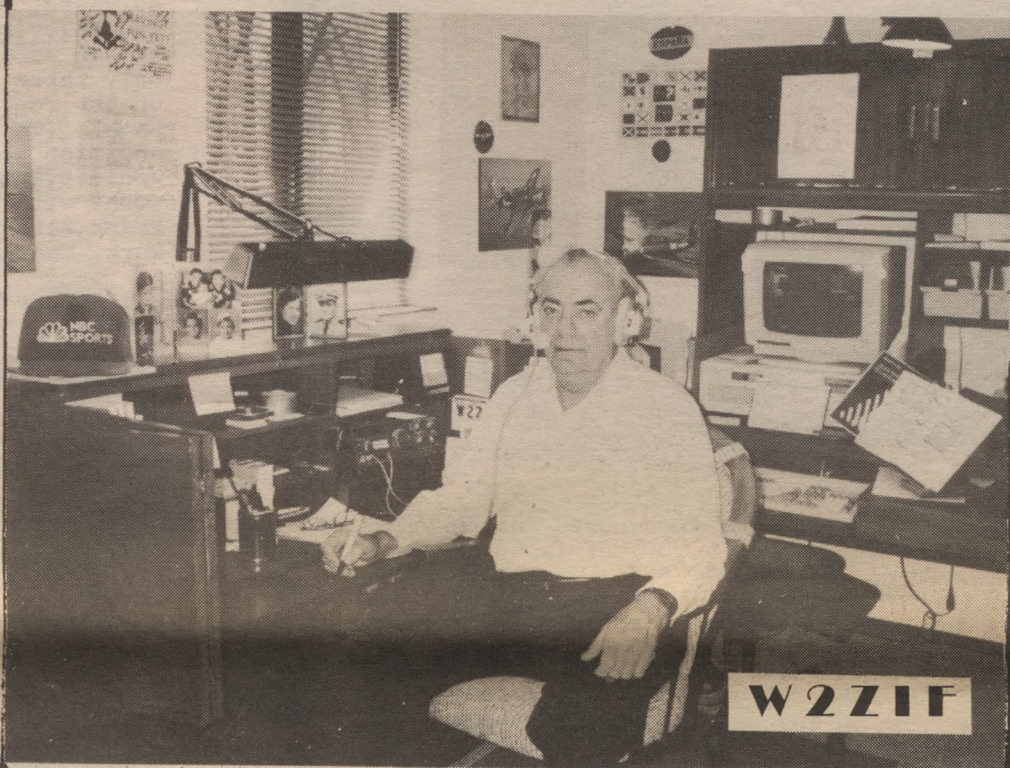
ANSWERS - TO Dick Dudley's TRIVIA Quiz

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1.- I | 2.- H | 3.- G |
| 4.- N | 5.- L | 6.- K |
| 7.- O | 8.- D | 9.- M |
| 10.- A | 11.- P | 12.- Q |
| 13.- E | 14.- C | 15.- B |
| 16.- J | 17.- F | |

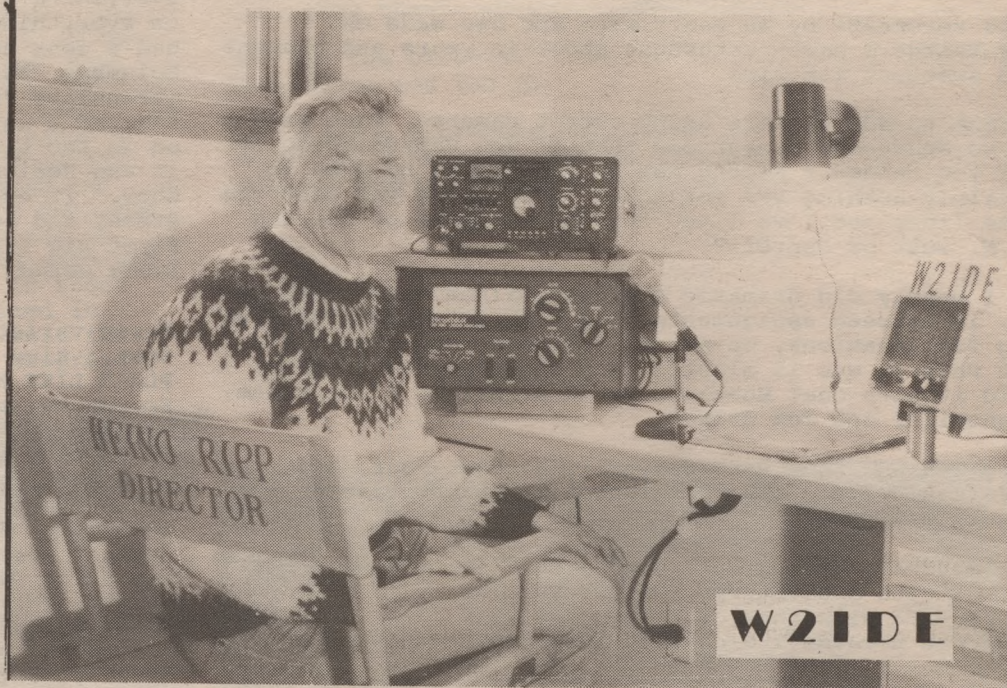
***Make Reservations NOW!
for La Maganette Luncheon**



Andy Hammerschmidt, former Eng. VP at his
Ham Rig in Hilton Head, S.C. Ham Call is W 2 V V



Bob Juncosa at his rig in Foresthill,
Calif, call is W 2 Z I F



Heino Ripp at my Ham rig in Jefferson
Twshp. N.J. My call now is W 2 I D E.

**N.B.C. HAM RADIO OPERATORS
Send in Your Photo !**

KEN'S KORNER concluded:

Martin Block ? He said either way it works out the same. When Sinatra came in that evening, Martin presented the watch to him. Frank showed it to each of us, and we all expressed amazement, not letting on that Martin had shown it to us earlier. Many other interesting things happened on the show. Time came when I decided I would like to leave the Make Believe Ballroom. Paul Gallant said he had a couple "Soap Operas" available. I told Martin I had another engineer, Jack McNally who would like to work the show.

I must say he paid me quite a compliment, in saying that after working with me doing the records, he would never play his own records again. He found it much more relaxing just doing the talking and having someone else spin the records..... Ken Arber

MEMORIES -

After she accepted her 40-year award at NBC's 25-year classy event, Pete had a conversation, as did I, with **Enid Roth**, about material for the newsletter. She wrote this "bio".

As we read on, it became more evident that this "bio" really touched on many others as well. As you read it, I'm sure It'll tweak memories, for **-YOU TOO WERE THERE, also !**



Heino,

In the past, when you were recognized for 40 years of service at the annual bash, your division President usually said a few words about you. Since I was thus honored this year, my then division President Al Jerome (Al has since departed for greener pastures) asked me to fill him in on my 40 years at NBC since he had only been here 17 years himself. And so I wrote him the following long, long memo. Of course, the more I wrote, the more I remembered and I could have gone on and on. None of it was ever used because of the change in the format of this year's event, but some of the gang around here who read it suggested that I share this with Peacock North since it brought back such good memories for them as well. So here it is.

Al,

Trying to re-create my 40 years with NBC has made me remember things I haven't thought about in years and brought back the sweetest memories.

When I came to NBC we were using turret cameras, each with 4 lenses, so heavy and cumbersome that if you wanted to dolly or truck you needed a second man on the camera to push it. And certainly nothing was portable. Everything was sent via telephone lines and I've lived through my share of hearing "It's O.K. west of Denver."

Because I mostly did dramatic and entertainment specials as an A.D., in between assignments, I got to do everything else covering for vacations, up-grades, illness, etc. So I did the news when it was 15 minutes long and repeated 5 times, and I did it with Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, Frank McGee, John Chancellor and Tom Brokaw.

I did the TONIGHT Show with Steve Allen, Jack Paar, and Johnny Carson. I did the HOME show with Arlene Francis and Hugh Downs.

I did CONCENTRATION with Hugh Downs, and JEOPARDY with Art Fleming, 21 with Jack Barry, COLLEGE BOWL with Allen Ludden, PLAY YOUR HUNCH with Merv Griffin and if I've left anything out, it's not because I didn't do it, it's because I don't remember it.

I spent years on Chet Hagan's Instant Special team which let me be there in the thick of things when things were the thickest.

And I did my share of soap operas both here in the building and out in Brooklyn.

Because I found it impossible to give you a chronological list of all that I've done, here's a synopsis of some of my best memories.

I remember that I started at NBC in a summer job as Margaret Cuthbert's secretary. It was the summer between my junior and senior year at Syracuse University. Margaret was the grand-dame of radio public affairs in those days. Tall, gray haired, patrician, a wonderful lady. I used to have to hand deliver memos from her almost daily to a guy whose job description I don't remember, but he was delightful, very handsome, very smart and I developed a crush. Couldn't type fast enough to get those memos out so I could deliver them. His name was Grant Tinker.

When I graduated from Syracuse, I went to work as a secretary at CBS. The FCC had just given CBS the go-ahead to broadcast with their "mechanical" color system and I was hired as the unit secretary with a promise to be made the unit's 4th P.A. They got to the third P.A. and closed down the unit because the FCC changed its mind and gave the nod to RCA. CBS kept me on as a show secretary and I got to work for directors like Franklin Schaffner and Marty Ritt, and talents like Mel Torme and composer Jerry Bock who was writing original music for Mel. And I worked on a talk show called MIKE AND BUFF - Mike being Mike Wallace and Buff his then wife Buff Cobb. (And Mike would be the first to tell you that the show was on the air because Buffy was the celebrity in the family. Many years later, I would be the director of an NBC local news show anchored by his son, Chris Wallace) But NBC called to hire me away. I came here as an Executive Secretary for WNBC-TV V.P. and General Manager, Ted Cott, with the promise that I could have a P.A. job as soon as the next one opened. The thing that also lured me was the salary. I was offered \$70 a week as compared to the \$45 a week I was making at CBS.

My first day on the job - the first phone call. I answered, in proper form, "Mr.Cott's office." The curt voice on the other end said "Is he in? This is Denny." "Denny who" I replied. The acid dripped from the other end "Charles R. Denny." (For those reading this who haven't been around for 40 years, Charles R. Denny was Executive-V.P of the Radio and Television Stations Division. Other divisions reported to him as well.) What a great start! Maybe that's why, only three months later, I was given the job of local P.A. on the four morning local cut-ins to the still new TODAY show. (There were cut-ins originally at 7:55 and 8:55 in addition to those still remaining at 7:25 and 8:25.) I would eventually spend two years as the day side A.D. on TODAY with Garroway, Florence Henderson, Jack Lescoulie and Frank Blair. The show was produced by Gene Jones in New York, Charlie Jones directed in Washington.

But before all that, I was P.A. for the station's executive producer, Steve Krantz. One of the shows we had on the air during that period was called "Hi Mom" with Shari Lewis. LambChop and CharleyHorse were so real that I had to catch myself when I started giving notes that concerned them directly to them. Shari was dating a guy named Jeremy Tarcher and she introduced Steve to Jeremy's lovely sister Judy. One only has to walk into a bookstore to know how it came out.

Several months later, I was promoted to an Associate Producer's job to ready a new late night gossip show. The talent was Igor Cassini, better known as Cholly Knickerbocker, and the producer was going to be a woman who worked in Local Press and Publicity. A week before the show was to go on the air, live, she left for another job and "Poof" I was a producer. She left to be a writer on the TODAY show. Her name was Barbara Walters. When my show went off the air several months later, I asked to be made an Associate Director and that was the beginning of a wonderful period in my life.

Some of the local Directors I worked with were Dwight Hemion, Bill Harbach, Ted Nathanson and Mike Gargiulo. Everything was still live at that time, so everybody worked on everything. We all shared one big space and everybody had a desk and the local studio was at 67th Street and Columbus, across the street from a wonderful place (translate "place" to "bar and grill") called McGlade's. We started a late night local show that I got a chance to work on in the big studio "A" at 67th street. Harbach produced it and Hemion directed it and it was called The Steve Allen Show. It eventually moved to the Hudson Theater on 44th Street and became TONIGHT. Two young singers got their first big break and met on the show- Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme. Don Knotts and Bill Dana were regulars.

Music variety shows were one of my favorite things to do and what a time I had. One of the first I did was called NO PLACE LIKE HOME. It starred Rosemary Clooney and Jose Ferrer "with" Carol Burnett and Dick Van Dyke.

I did the Perry Como Show for three years. Nick Vanoff produced, Dwight Hemion directed and the scene designer was a guy named Gary Smith. Mitch Ayres conducted the orchestra, Paul Lynde, Don Adams, Kaye Ballard and Sandy Stewart were regulars. Goodman Ace headed the writing staff and Selma Diamond was one of the writers. The first year I did the show, we did it weekly from the wonderful Ziegfeld Theater. Most of us took our dinner break at the Chinese restaurant next door (the name escapes me) and Selma was the first to introduce me to the idea of taking a doggie bag home from a Chinese restaurant. When Castro laid siege to the American base at Guantanamo Bay, the State Department asked Perry to do his Christmas Show from there. I'll never forget flying into Cuban air space and having U.S. fighter planes come up to escort us safely in. In addition to taping a show (on two inch tape) under extraordinary conditions, we were also doing truck shows all over the base just to entertain the troops. It was a week I'll always remember.

My last year on the show we did one show each month from a different city. Heino Ripp and the crew virtually built a control room from scratch just off stage at every location. And we are talking about big, heavy, equipment that still had tubes. Every set-up was a miracle wrought by Heino. We did a show one night in November of 1963 in San Francisco. We woke up the following morning to the news that President Kennedy had been shot. NBC called and told me not to come home, but to go straight to Washington, D.C. I was upgraded to Director and I'll never forget those cold, rainy days, sitting in a small mobil unit at Arlington Cemetery. It was all so unreal. Those of you familiar with the commute to

D.C. know that when you drive into Washington from the airport, you cross over a bridge and a hill rises in front of you on top of which sits the Custis-Lee mansion. At night, it almost looks like it's floating in the darkness. When I left Washington after the burial, about 1/3 of the way down that same hill, in the darkness, was a flickering flame. Everything was, all of a sudden, very real.

I got to do a lot of other news as an A.D. I worked on space shots in Houston and Cape Canaveral. I worked at conventions in San Francisco, New York, Miami, Atlantic City, Chicago, Kansas City. As a director, I was in 19 states doing all the primaries. One of my memories of that year, 1976, was arriving in New Hampshire with my producer, Joe Angotti. New Hampshire was still the first primary. And when we got off the plane we were met by an adorable reporter, open shirt under a v-neck sweater, casual sports jacket, pork-pie hat tilted back on head, hands jammed in his pockets and an infectious smile on his face. Joe introduced us and that's how I met Tom Brokaw.

I did the first satellite broadcast with Telstar. It was produced by Fried Friendly. The satellite was in a low orbit and as I remember we only had acquisition for 18 minutes as it passed over the United States and we did a show called "Hello, Europe, Hello" picking up live remotes from all across the country as the satellite travelled from west to east across the U.S. I actually remember telling a director at one of the western locations to "Cue the buffalo" and they appeared over a rise as if out of nowhere. When we finished our 18 minutes we waited as the satellite crossed the Atlantic and the Europeans did "Hello America Hello."

But to get back to my musical career: Gary Smith left the Como show to produce his own weekly variety show and asked me if I'd be interested in doing it with him. I was. It was called Hullabaloo and Michael Bennett was a chorus dancer. When the Supremes were guests, it was way before Diana Ross had stepped out front.

I did a lot of specials: an original musical version of "Little Red Riding Hood" written by Jule Styne and starring Cyril Ritchard as the Wolf and fresh from her off-Broadway triumph in "Flora, the Red Menace" the new face of Liza Minelli.

There was "Magic Man", a two hour special starring Bill Bixby, who was a magic freak, directed by Sid Smith. The show had a unique problem for me as an A.D. Just as we started to do a dress rehearsal, the magicians started to show up in the control room asking me to be sure to let them know how much time each one had until we got to his act. One problem one of them had was that it took 4 minutes to load the birds, the birds could then live loaded in the trick for 10 minutes. If we didn't get to the trick within that ten minutes, the birds would have to be let out or they would die. After they were out, they had to stay out for a time before they could be loaded back in. He didn't have a second set of birds. We might find ourselves in a situation with 24 musicians, a complete crew, a dress-rehearsal audience, etc. sitting around for 20 minutes waiting for the birds.

I did dramatic shows such as the "American Heritage" series, Ford Theater, Dupont Play of the Week, NBC's Experiment in Television with directors like Fielder Cook, Del Mann, Tom Donovan, Paul Bogart and Lewis Friedman. David Susskind took me to London to do "The Price" with George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst for Hallmark, and then to Toronto to do "Harvey" with Jimmy Stewart and Helen Hayes.

And at one time I was given a leave of absence to work in Switzerland and Germany on an NBC "made for TV" movie. Del Mann was the director and he hired me to go with him as the Dialogue Coach. (By the way, the post-production was done in Germany which possibly explains the misspelling of my screen credit at the end- it reads Dialogue Couch - Enid Roth) The movie we were making was every football lover's favorite, "Heidi". I had invited friends to cocktails and dinner the night that it aired so we could sit around and watch. I was ready to point myself out as I walked down the street in the first scene as a dress extra. We turned on the set on at about 5 minutes to 7 and saw that the game was running late. There was no "sliding the network" in those days, so I just assumed that "Heidi" would be "joined in progress" and that my friends and I would have to wait for the re-run to see me in that first scene. What a surprise!! What fun for us!

Probably the most fun I've had in my career, though, has been working with Clark Jones as his A.D. We did the first two Night of 100 Stars together. The first one probably stretched my capabilities more than anything I've ever done. It was the first major television show done from Radio City Music Hall and it was overwhelming and wonderful. I did NBC's 60th anniversary show with Clark and "Sinatra: A Man and his Music". I also did 17 years of Tony Awards with him. I should also confess that Clark and I did one of the worst shows ever aired on NBC. It was to kick off the 1976 season and it was called The Big Party. A better title would have been The Big Bomb.

I A.D.d a lot of those shows for Clark even after I had become a local director in 1975. As a local director, I did news and public affairs shows. I directed a Christmas Tree Lighting show one year for which I got an Emmy nomination. I've had four nominations and finally won one last year.

But finally, what goes around comes around. I started my career in a summer job working with Public Affairs. Last year I was made Producer/Director of Special Projects for WNBC-TV. And how satisfying it has been. I have a file filled with letters from The American Cancer Society, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the United Way, to name a few, thanking us for the help we've been able to give them with our Public Affairs campaigns. I was recently honored as part of a ceremony at City Hall thanking WNBC-TV for the success we've had in raising volunteers. But the best one is a plaque on my office wall from the Human Resources Administration given to me "In grateful acknowledgment on behalf of New York's children" for doubling the number of families entering the HRA Child Welfare Orientation Sessions, which is the first step on the road to adoption or foster care.

Best of all, three of the women I met here when I was a secretary 40 years ago are still my closest and dearest friends. There are a million more good memories. There are some bad ones, too. But I definitely end up on the plus side.

ADDENDUM

I then sent Al a second memo noting that sometimes they let the 40 year honorees say a few words. Feeling fairly certain that he would probably mention some of the on-camera people I had worked with, I asked him to let me say the following:

"Al has just mentioned the names of some of the creative people I've had a chance to work with. I'd like to mention a few more.

It's true that few people, other than those of us who work with them, would equate the word "creative" with the word "tech" or the acronym NABET, but I could successfully argue that few artists using canvas and paintbrush ever used light more imaginatively or more creatively than Bill Klages.

And what would Benny Goodman's Band, Toscanini's Orchestra, Frank Sinatra, Ethel Merman, - what would they have sounded like at home on your TV set if they had not first gone through the hands of men like Neil Smith, Mahlon Fox and Bob Liftin?

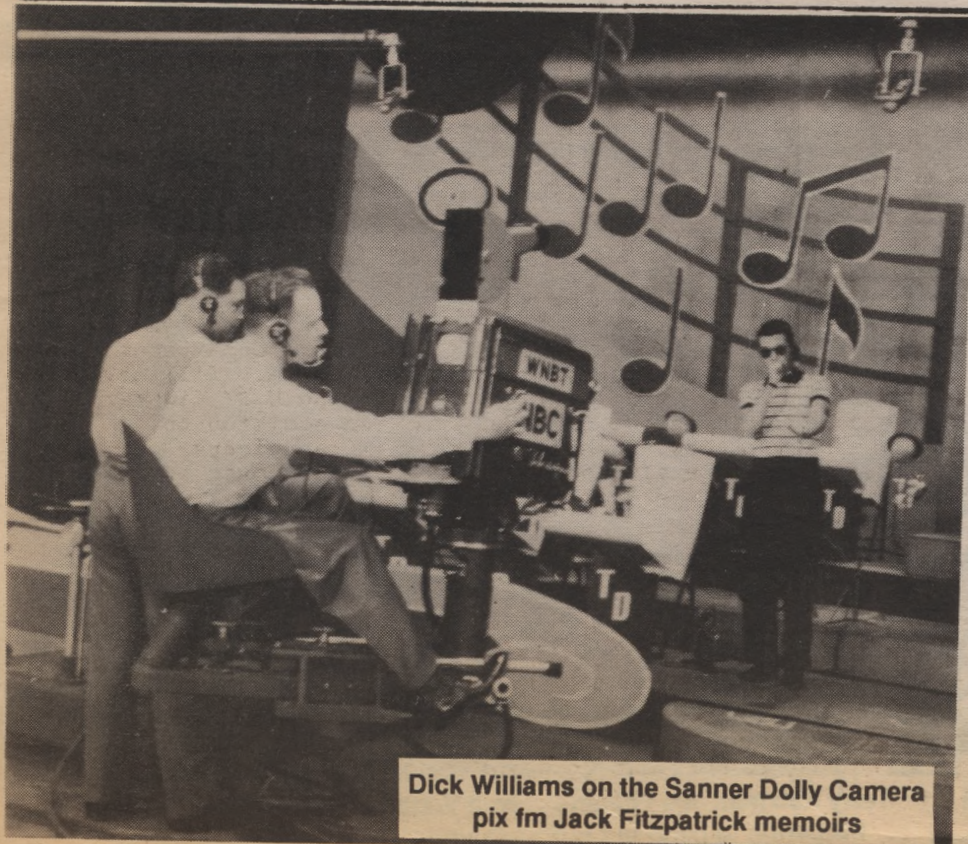
And did anybody ever handle a camera, whether it be Hasselblad or Leica, with more sensitivity or more creativity than Al Camoin?

And who thinks of the word Stagehand as meaning craft, expertise, magic? Anyone who remembers the words Joe V. will know that's what Stagehand means.

And did the Director's Team ever have more creative players than Dicso and Van Ry.

It's been a tremendous privilege for me to spend the last forty years working with men and women like these. Thank you for letting me come to the party!"

Ripp- Happy Holidays - Love -



Dick Williams on the Sanner Dolly Camera
pix fm Jack Fitzpatrick memoirs



Heino Ripp, Jerry Canizzaro with Leon Dobbin
holding Jerry back, at a 80's convention

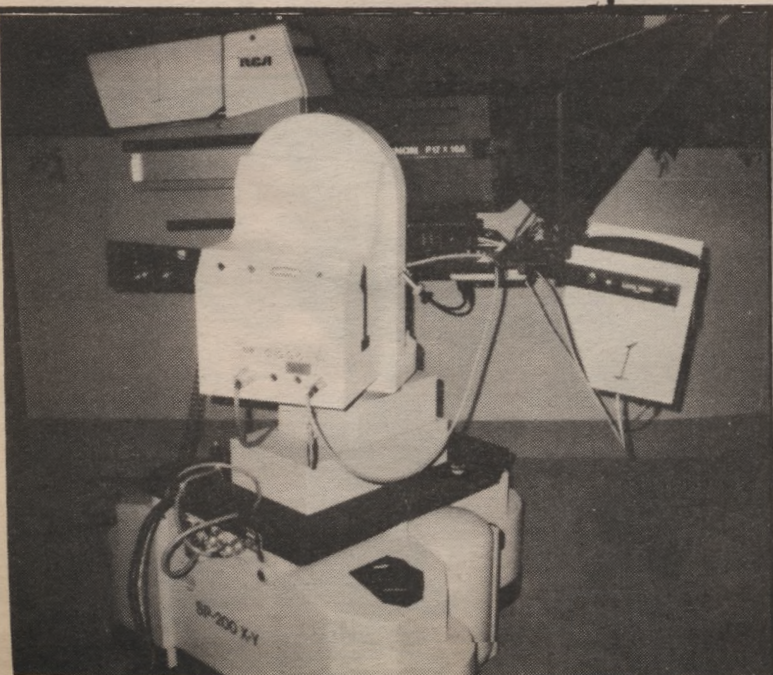
Betty Furness Bows Out at 30 Rock

Betty Furness ended a 17 year run on NBC News in April with a big warm sendoff on the TODAY Show. The editors dug deep and started off with those doors of Westinghouse refrigerators on CBS Playhouse, her consumer reporter days for the City of New York, then at the White House where she held the national version of that watchdog job, on to WNBC and simultaneously on the net via TODAY. Extensive research was done and many big names who had been part of, or close to her cavalcade made taped comments, including Ralph Nader, Walter Cronkite, and Andy Rooney, who noted kindly that it was nice to see someone of vintage in an on-camera job on the tube. Watching her reaction, you had to feel she was quite moved by this bio. It was out of "This is Your Life". Very nice.

About a week before her TODAY appearance on March 18, the TV news columns said her contract had not been renewed. Under situation at NBC she joins a distinguished cast of personalities, and a lot of un-famous among our Peacock North membership. What's next for Miss Furness? She has not announced that when we wrote this copy, might not have decided at this early date, but she will remain active in consumerism, although in pursuits that give her some free time with spouse Les Midgely, a former CBS VP with whom she lives in Westchester.

It's interesting to note, that despite those years in Hollywood and Washington, and as a major consumer advocate on telly, no one ever seems to forget those in early television when Betty made pitches for Westinghouse and opened those fridge doors. One simple "schtik", and I'll bet every picture spread that recaps her career will include that shot.

With such a high "Q" rating and a quarter century-plus of national recognition, Betty is a good bet to latch on to an interesting, new assignment. And let's not forget those investigators on Betty Furness' staff behind the scenes, plodding though the muck and mire to come up with the details of her exposes, by which we mean people like Gloria Clyne ! Huzzahs for them too.



The new RCA/GE unmanned remote controlled camera operating in 3A for "Nitely" and 6B for local news !

HOWIE ATLAS Reports On: NBCFR's 1992 Spring Reunion

The 1992 NBCFR reunion was held on March 24th and 25th at the Clarion Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Approximately 152 retirees and guests attended. The came from all over the country, some from as far away as California.

Early registration was held on Tuesday morning.

In the afternoon a cocktail party was held outdoors, with the weather cooperating beautifully - it was sunny and cool. The cocktail party consisted of hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. A number of gifts (bottles of champagne, free tickets to local attractions, free dinners, NBC logos, radios and tape recorders, etc) were raffled off during the cocktail party. The raffle was free to all. The numbers used were based on the order in which people had sent in their money (\$18) for the reunion.

In the evening all were on their own to have dinner, see the local sights (Disney World, MGM Studios, etc.) or just get together in the lobby and talk about old times. The hotel lobby was about the size of a football field so it lent itself very nicely to this activity throughout the reunion.

On Wednesday registration continued. At 12 noon there was another cocktail party. Then the sit-down luncheon started about 1 PM.

Between the salad course and entree, **Walt Vetter** made a short welcoming speech. Between the entree and desert, **Howie Atlas** made a short presentation on some of the lesser known aspects of Medicare, Medigap Insurance (RCA and GE), and Medicare HMO's.

After desert **Lee Noble** did his well known, entertaining magic act. This was followed by a continuation of the previous day's raffle. About 25 gifts were given out.

Those in NBCFR who worked so hard to make this event a success should be congratulated. They were:- **Walt and Doris Vetter; Ed and Anne Taffe; Hank and Iris Folkerts. Harry and Terry Katzman** acted as this year's hosts.

The weather, the hotel, and especially the camaraderie of the retirees and their guests, all combined to make this a most enjoyable event. **Howie Atlas**



AT FLORIDA RETIREES BASH F.G. ?? Left to right
Anne Taffe Ed Taffee Hank Folkerts Iris Folkerts Walt Vetter



Terry Katzman Iris Folkerts Walt Vetter
Preparing to hand out raffle winnings

Fotos by Howie Atlas

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PETER PETERSON's Report

MESSAGE FROM PETER PETERSON, CEO.

SPRING 1992

HAPPY CONTINUED RETIREMENT!, It's a little more up and down and a little bumpier than some realized, that's the message I'm getting. However. at home my answer to that is the same as back in working days, that is "Keep Going!", It's the best solution to "What ails You", and just continue on, (Besides, you'll make a smaller target). **"ILLEGITEMI NON CARBORUNDUM"**!

Peacock North members who attended the **Florida Retirees Event** in Orlando, Fl. in March had a very good time, a well managed affair where there was plenty of time to chat and enjoy the attractive facilities of the Clarion Plaza Hotel. An insight and some pictures are provided by **HOWARD ATLAS** in this edition. These events both North and South are important links in keeping lines of communications open for past NBC'ers. The PN and FLORIDA NEWSLETTERS have become even more important to some who are no longer able to travel for various reasons, Difficulties in financing and ageing are heard of more often, and we are aware of these changes. It is important however to keep in touch, and :

For those who have reached their **EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY**, they will be **"LIFE MEMBERS" FREE OF "DUES" CHARGES HEREAFTER.**

Now for the **"SING ALONG GANG"** of actives, We welcome you to join in on the fun we're planning for the Sunday May 31st luncheon at La Maganette in New York City. Come and hear the ruckus at the "announcers" tables, they have the best attendance on a percentage basis than any group in the company. Hear **DON PARDO'S** laugh. Commentator **EDWIN NEWMAN** has been a regular at this affair despite his busy schedule. Some interesting News and events will be announced. The food has always been good and the membership **GREAT!**

PEACOCK NORTHS roster is over 525, with the active list slightly less, but maintaining a good average considering time and distances and expenses involved. One of our most active and key members, **HEINO RIPP** will be leaving us for an important assignment back into TV. He has been doing an outstanding job in designing, composing and writing the PN Newsletter. During the year he is called upon to work on major TV Productions. He is a busy man. His next assignment is at the Olympics in **BARCELONA**. We know he will be an asset to make the **OLYMPIC** viewing better by his expertise in that endeavor too. It would be easy to recommend Rippy to anyone knowing he would have the reliability and dedication to excellence we find missing about us so much these days. We are all deeply indebted to him for his perseverance and continuation in our newsletter service. Good luck, **HEINO** on the Olympics!.....(He will be back for us later).

As for all you happy faces, we look forward to the continued **MINI-Lunches**, and the **La Mag** affair in May.>>>>>> **"AN IMPORTANT QUESTION IS TO BE ASKED OF ALL IN ATTENDANCE THAT DAY SO "BE THERE!"** 73 & 88, PP

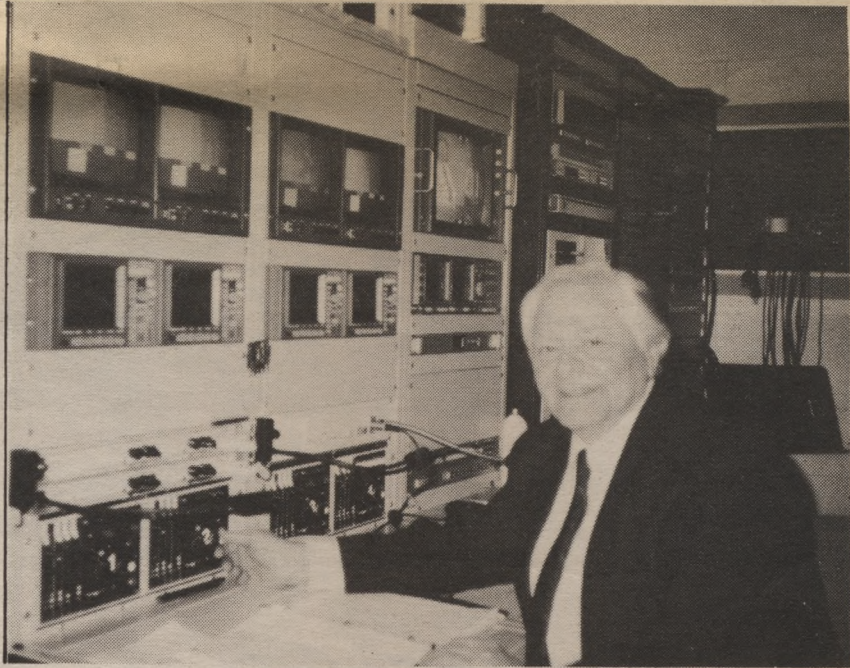
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Pete Peterson proving that older fellows, after years of practice don't just forget how to make good pictures.

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" **GOLDEN OLDIES** "



From O. Tamburri's archives, and also
from Jack Coffey's a shot of the
1 camera crew - Philco Playhouse 1949
Larry Elikann Henry Scott O.Tamburri Jack Coffey



David on Opening day of TODAY !



I've seen HIM before !



Also from Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Costello
and Charles Laughton and an OLD Black & White
camera. Is That Bill Klages seated in the set??
Who is the cameraman ? ?

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