



Phil Alongi to be Keynote Speaker at PN Spring Luncheon

Our annual luncheon will be held once again
at O'Neals' Restaurant, located
opposite Lincoln Center at 64th Street
between Broadway and Central Park West.

The fun starts at noon on Sunday, May 17th.

We're pleased to announce that one of
NBC News' newest retirees, Phil Alongi,
has agreed to be our Keynote Speaker.

The entire ground floor space will be ours
if we can guarantee 150 guests.

We're counting on all of our members
to fill in the reservation form on Page 27
and mail it in today!



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Marilyn's Page**Inauguration 2009 - A Personal View**

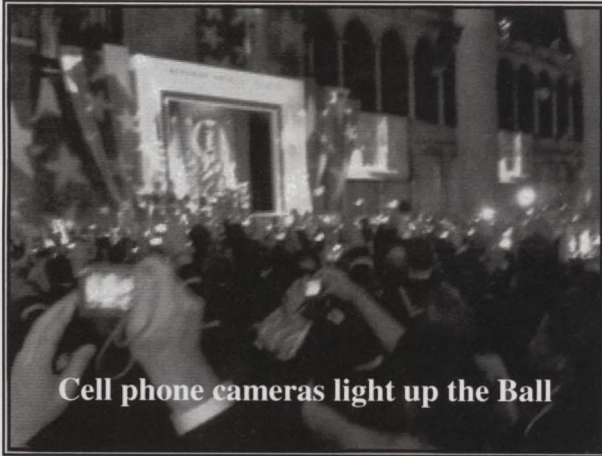
I was not supposed to go to the inauguration this time. I had no assignment. I was going to watch it on television with millions of others worldwide. All of that changed the Thursday before the Tuesday.

My trip began on the Shuttle. There was a thick crowd at the airport and I wondered if inaugurations were always this large a draw and I had just never noticed. I flew down to DC with a woman, in her late 70's or early 80's, who had marched with Dr. King in Selma. She had been a political activist all of her life. This was her ump-teenth inauguration but this one held magic for her because of Obama. She reminded me of all those people I saw on television when I was a kid in the early 60's who marched for Civil Rights. I always thought they were the bravest people in the world. I thanked her for making my world a better place.

This was to be my first inauguration not working in a truck, control room or trailer. I found myself at the Washington Mall with MSNBC and a million other people. SO MANY people; young people, old people, mixture of races...all happily energized and focused on one event, the inauguration.

A couple of days later I arrived at the Commander-in-Chief Ball with a throng of military personnel who would take

your breath away. My memories of this event are warmed by snapshots of the young people who protect this country. They came wearing all their uniforms bedecked with stripes and ribbons. They came by foot; they came in wheelchairs and as burn victims with the same plumage and pride as those who are still active and whole. I was with Ann Curry, who, when not on the air, spent all of her time talking to those amazing young soldiers and their families. She said "These people give so much, they get paid nothing... there is not enough you can give back to them." She's right. And then you had to see and hear their cheers when the Obamas entered. It was a sea of cell phones and cameras being held high to capture the moment. That scene, plus Smokey Robinson and Bon Jovi's performances, made the evening a smash hit. It finally



Cell phone cameras light up the Ball

ended around 3 or 4 the next morning.

The train ride home the next day was the best kind of mayhem. Again, the mixture of people was truly amazing. All ages, races and walks of life congregated in the Café Car swapping their stories and impressions of the day before. It was heart-warming to witness the everyone's excitement. America had really marked a new day with this inauguration. The competition for the job had included men and women of various races and ethnic backgrounds. From now on there would be a casual acceptance that anyone could become President of the United States. It would no longer be an exception to the rule to be underlined and fervently debated, but merely a fact.

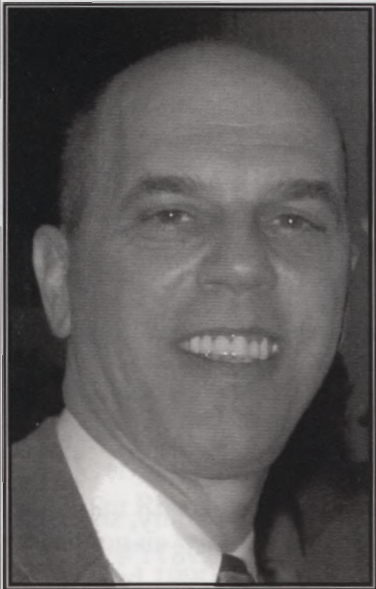
I wonder if we all realize and appreciate how profoundly unique the United States is in terms of the passing of power. It is done peaceably, yet with fanfare. We have been doing this since George Washington passed the baton to John Adams in 1797 and we just did it again, this time with the whole world watching. We should all feel proud.

**Support Our Troops,
Our Crews
and Our Correspondents
In Harm's Way**

Current E-mail Addresses

REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify us at peacocknorth@yahoo.com. This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.

Spring Luncheon Keynote Speaker Phil Alongi's Career Highlights



Phil Alongi is an Emmy® Award-winning media executive with over 30 years of network television experience, most recently serving as Executive Producer of Specials and Politics for NBC News.

Throughout his career, he has traveled to dozens of countries and has covered such major news events as the 9/11 attacks, the Iraq War, Millennium 2000, the Death of Ronald Reagan, and countless others. In addition to news, Phil produced the relief telethons for Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami of 2004.

He is a frequently sought-after speaker for various conferences and seminars, including the upcoming National Association of Broadcasters annual convention in Las Vegas.

He recently founded Alongi Media Solutions (AMS), which is quickly becoming a force in the world of media consulting. In his capacity with AMS, he is currently providing consulting for Tolo TV, Afghanistan's leading network, in their efforts to cover their country's upcoming presidential election.

Spring Luncheon Sunday, May 17th 12 noon to 4 pm O'Neals' Restaurant

49 West 64th Street between Broadway and Central Park West

Please mail your check and the reservation form on Page 27 of this issue.

See you there!

Write or Call Billy Kidd



Chicago's own Billy Kidd is home from the hospital, recuperating from spinal surgery. Here is his report:

I've weathered the latest of my ills pretty well. It all started with falling down, mostly at night. I went to see my neurologist who said, "I'll bet it's in your neck." So after a few tests it proved true. I had a laminectomy, which cleans out the spinal column. I need more surgery that will go further down the spine. It's been about two and a half months since the operation. It's quite the rehab; I just started walking again. Otherwise I love retirement. Miss you guys and would love to hear from you. I can be reached at:

2500 Cherie Lane

Ottawa, IL 61350-1285

630-464-0799

BillyKidd@mchsi.com

Peacock North's Genesis
How One Goodbye Led to NBC's Retirement Group
By Dan Grabel



Older PN members (are there any young ones?) will tell you the memory slips away as the years go by, so that when a guy like, say, Joel Spector, sends you an e-mail and asks "Can you recall what happened in 1987?", you give a little shudder. Hey! That's 22 years ago. But then I recovered and answered, "Of course!"

So that is the genesis of this article, asking me to recall how a bunch of NBC engineers founded this organization whose great periodical is now in your hands. I was taken aback when I first read Joel's request because, while I had saved piles of PN issues going back perhaps 15 years, I tossed them all out in 2004 when wife Pat and I moved from a 12 room house in Scarsdale to a condo half the size in Rye Brook.

There goes all my reference material, which I don't think is on the internet. And if it were, I probably could not find it. With some memory jogging from Peg Peterson, widow of Peter who died in October of 2008, and Frank Vierling, the sage of Oradell, NJ and the town historian, I offer these memories.

Let us begin. Peter Peterson ended up at NBC in 1949 after gaining communications experience in a wartime career as a chief radio officer on merchant marine ships in World War II, and as a civilian at several radio and television stations before joining United Nations radio in its formative stage. The tv industry was in its infancy; no one had longtime experience. A lot of people --almost exclusively men-- found entry in a new medium not too difficult.

My own experience was an example. I worked at the NY Daily News as a radio news writer/editor preparing hourly newscasts for WNEW radio. When The News got a tv license in 1948, it sought news personnel among its staff for WPIX-TV. The longtime reporters and rewrite men were not about to switch from secure jobs on the paper with the country's largest circulation, and a lot of prestige, for a job in this fly-by-night new industry. Its potential was unknown and undreamed of. That meant the lower echelon got those creamy new jobs!!! Me included.

So, Peter Peterson comes to NBC, works mostly studio audio and then video with all the glamour of shows large and small (Omnibus, Milton Berle's Texaco Star Theatre, the Lucky Strike Hit Parade, and NASA space shots). The excitement of working those shows is still part of the industry all PN members experienced and recall. In 1987, aged 60, Peter was having trouble with his eyes and decided to retire, figuring he could do freelance work to keep his hand in and earn a few bucks. (You could do it in that day and for many years after).

Sam Sambataro, an engineering buddy, invited others to salute Peter, and the group gathered at a small restaurant in Ft. Lee, NJ -- Picco Lissimo. After dessert and coffee, the attendees had enjoyed themselves so much that they decided to set up a regular monthly get-together.

Sambataro was the creator of a simple, mimeographed (remember mimeograph?) newsletter that kept tabs on goings-on among the engineering staff --great assignments, holidays, weddings and such.

As the group started to enlarge it took in NBC retirees other than engineers. I think I, from the News Dept., where I had been a writer/producer/reporter, was the first "outsider." Vinnie DiPietro was elected the group's first

president. When he moved off to California, Frank DiRienzo replaced him.

Early members -- and this is only a partial list since we're working from memory, not a membership list -- included Ken Arber, Mort Aronoff, Jim Blaney, Al Camoin, Lee Carlton, Ralph Dichter, Gene Frisch, Rudy Gebhart, Ed Hoffmeister, Henry Huestis, Gary Iorio, Bob Juncosa, Gene Martin, Carmen Picioccio, Bob Potter, Heino Ripp, Dom Salviola, Bud Shadel, Ed Stolzenberger, Orland Tamburri, Vince Vacca, Frank Vierling, Ed Voss and Joe Wagg.

Peter, meanwhile, was the behind-the-scenes activist, keeping records. By now, PN was branching out, seeking members from among any retirees who had served at NBC for 25 years. That has recently been reduced to 15 years.

As the group expanded and moved into high gear, Peter became the president, the record keeper, the organizer of meetings, etc. And the PN magazine, as we know it today, came into being with a staff including Heino Ripp as compositor, Frank Vierling also as a compositor, Dan Grabel as Managing Editor, and Peter as publisher and "fixer."

NBC had a big print shop at 30 Rock for internal publishing and Peter "discovered" Robert Bartsche, who ran that department. What a find!! With Bartsche's help we immediately got ourselves a slick publication, and probably at little cost. That didn't last forever, as our printing needs increased when at one time, Peacock North boasted of a membership of 900!

Heino Ripp moved off to Arizona, and then "disappeared" --our designation, as we have not been able to locate him. Vierling, equally astute with the computer, moved into the job of creating each issue. I got assistance from newsman Roy Silver, who was a prodigious newspaper reader and was PN's equivalent of the Associated Press, providing us with lots of NBC-related background for PN stories.

Around 1990, the annual luncheon was conceived and it was held twice at the Ramada Inn in South Hackensack and once at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains, before settling in for a long run at La Maganette on Third Avenue in Manhattan.

The annual lunch was good reason for retirees to come to New York from far-off locales, and one couple often made it all the way from Florida.

With maybe 150 in attendance, Peter always lined up a guest speaker and they included directors who oversaw major shows, such as Enid Roth, Roger Muir, and Walter Miller; News VP Bill Wheatley; writer Beryl Pfizer; announcers Gene Hamilton (who flew in from Arizona), Ed Herlihy and Dick Dudley; engineering staffer Ken Arber, who had fabulous recall, and Operations wizard Jack Weir. Arber had been around since Day One and told stories about magician Kuda Bux's 1950s show.

The "Second Generation" leadership continued this tradition with such personalities as Tom Brokaw and correspondent Bob Hagar, who gave a great talk last May. They all provided first-class insight and often fascinating behind-the-scenes stories.

In our "hey-day," there were always enough guests to fill an announcers' table (Don Pardo, Vic Roby, Arthur Gary, Mel Brandt), a writers' table (Ken Donohue, Al Robbins, Ed Gough, Gloria Cline), a "Today Show" table (Marie Finnegan, Anne Kramer, Mamy Smith, Gene Waggoner), directors (Lilly Russo, Dave Handler) etc. And, occasionally, celebrities like Ed Newman and visitors like Dominick Dunne attended.

And our name? Many retired engineers had moved to Florida in the 1980s and met regularly with luncheons, so our northern contingent had to have a name to distinguish ourselves. We became Peacock North. A few retirees went West, but I don't believe they had a formal group.

Can't overlook one dynamo of a helper -- Peg Peterson, Peter's wife. She did endless luncheon prep work and greeted every guest with a name sticker every year.

Top NBC top management, including CEO Robert Wright, who is an honorary member, and Human Resources VP Ed Scanlon, have always supported the organization.

After 19 years of operation, including 14 years of quarterly glossy issues of the magazine, the "old guard" (Peterson/Vierling/Grabel) sought to bow out and be replaced by a young, fresh crew. And we found it willingly in Marilyn Altman, Jim Marshall, Lenny Stucker and Joel Spector.

The "new generation" took the annual meeting to O'Neal's at Lincoln Center in 2007 and that is where all will gather once more on Sunday, May 17th, 2009. As the NBC blurbs used to say -- "Be there!!" We're 22 years young and going strong...

Radio City By Jack Keegan

When I started at NBC it really *was* Radio City. The second floor contained five Radio studios, the Third had seven, the fourth had two, the fifth had five, the sixth contained three, the eighth had eight, and on nine there were three. That's thirty-three all together, plus a studio in Radio City Music Hall. There also was one at the Belasco Theater on 44th Street. There was one experimental Television Studio [3H] on the third floor. Some of these studios were shared with ABC Radio until their plant on 67th Street was in operation.

Most studios were taken up with soap operas and news broadcasts. Do any of you remember Ma Perkins, Betty and Bob, Our Gal Sunday, Vic and Sade, Road to Happiness, Just Plain Bill, The Guiding Light? Then there were other programs such as Amos 'n' Andy, Mary Margaret McBride, You Bet Your Life, Duffy's Tavern, Dragnet, and Boston Blackie.

News broadcasts featured such people as John Cameron Swayze on the Camel News Caravan. Do you remember Ben Grauer? He joined the NBC announcing staff and rapidly rose in its ranks. Ben covered all venues: the Moro Castle disaster, presidential inaugurations, Olympic Games, the Paris Peace Treaty negotiations and many, many more stories. He is most remembered for his covering the dropping of the ball at the New Year's celebration at Times Square in New York City.

Little known fact: Maestro Arturo Toscanini was so taken by Ben's voice and delivery that he had him assigned to announce on and do commentary for the broadcasts of the NBC Symphony Orchestra. Grauer followed the orchestra when it went to TV and stayed with it until the it was disbanded.

He also covered the first NBC-TV Special: the opening of the New York World's Fair in 1939, attended by David Sarnoff, President of RCA and Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States. FDR's address was the first televised speech by an American President.

NBC Chimes History

In NBC's early days at the end of a program the announcer read off the call letters of all of the stations on the network. As more stations joined the network this created a time problem and Network people now began to look for a solution. It so happened that an Atlanta station had been using a chime device to signal end of programs. NBC officials became aware of the gadget, listened to it and thought that it was a good idea. Thus a committee was formed consisting of Chief Engineer O. B. Hanson, Musical Director Earnest La Prade, and Announcer Philip Carlin, who sat down with the problem. Obtaining a Degan Dinner Chime they went to work, after trying several sets of chimes from three to seven they decided on three. The final choice was three chimes, sounding the notes "G""E""C", mounted on a xylophone box which would be struck with a small mallet. Chimes were to be struck at 30 seconds before the hour and 30 seconds before the half-hour.

Very good, but now another problem arose: announcers were hitting early or late or not striking in the proper sequence. During a trip to inspect Charles Ranger's electronic organ, O.B. Hanson at lunch time enquired of Ranger about building a mechanical chimes machine. About six weeks later Ranger showed up at NBC with a prototype. It was in effect a music box, a rotating barrel with 24 steel pins which plucked 24 metal reeds creating the desired notes for the required duration. NBC installed three such machines, two of which alternated from day to day, and a spare. Now announcers at their Announcers Delight Console in each studio had the means to initiate the sounding of chimes merely by pushing a button.

Read more about it at these websites:

<http://www.olderadio.com/archives/stations/sf/chimes.htm> has pictures and more details.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBC_Chimes describes typical cutaway cues such as "This is Today on NBC."

<http://www.nbcchimes.info/>

We Get Letters and Pictures

NBC Ham Radio Net by Tom Fergus

[Looking over recent PN issues] I still recognize some of the players: Phil Parlante, Tony Romeo, Walter Dibbins, Jack Keegan and Bill Freeda, to name a few. On a sad note, Peter Peterson (Black Pete) and Vincent Jachetta (inventor of the Jachetta Box) are silent keys.

Joe Kolb and I attended the 2008 Orlando Ham Fest. Marguerite and I had some medical problems and headed south at the beginning of December.

Question to all: Anyone interested is re-starting the NBC HAM radio net? When I was in NABET doing shift work I enjoyed checking in and help keeping it going. The only thing out there now is the Broadcasters Net made up of mostly ABC and CBS retirees. I can be heard on 7123 @ 7AM and 3837 @ 7PM

73

Tom Fergus (WA2GIB)
thomas.r.fergus@verizon.net



Tom Fergus (WA2GIB)-Joe Kolb (W4VL)

Excerpted from **Deacon Jim and Mary Blaney's** Christmas 2008 letter to friends and family...

Jim celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his ordination as a deacon last May 7th. He is doing great; dialysis has been cut from 4 to 3 hours daily. He is well and happy. Mary is not driving very much following cataract surgery, as her vision, though brighter, is limited to one eye.

BEST NEWS OF ALL: We have a new great-grandson named Conor James Branham. The proud parents are Shannon and Brad Branham - making "Jim Jr" a grandfather twice. Oh where have all those years gone? We are not that old, are we? Our other son Colin and wife Melissa gave birth to Grace Elizabeth Blaney in January, making Mary a Great Grandmother to three beautiful children.



Conor (L) and Grace (R)



A Visit to Star Prairie by Mike Noseworthy

Last summer while in St. Paul, MN covering The Republican National Convention, I had the opportunity to go across the beautiful St. Croix River to a pleasant village named Star Prairie, WI. The last time I visited Star Prairie was to say goodbye to a friend. Although in my heart I knew it would be the last time I saw my dear friend and mentor Jerry Caruso alive I still couldn't say good-bye.

My son Joe made the trip by airplane with me because a year earlier, on his 12th birthday, he and I had taken a "road trip" and had driven out to visit Jerry and his wife Geri. After their retirement in the 80's, we had stayed in touch while they traveled the country. They then lived in Clayton, NC and finally settled in Star Prairie. Jerry was someone very special to me who played a big part in my life and I wanted my son to meet him. It was a tough decision because Jerry had already told me he was terminally ill. My wife and I didn't want to cause Joe any unnecessary heartache but after some serious thought we decided our son would be better for it. Well, it turned out to be true.

The visit was great. We got to meet many of the Carusos friends at a dinner party they had at their home. How wonderful to be surrounded by his friends and neighbors. Even his caregivers were there, the fine doctors and nurses from a wonderful little hospital named the Osceola Medical Center. These medical professionals were some of the nicest people I had ever met. They loved this guy and it showed. There was laughter and good times the entire evening. As anyone who ever knew Jerry Caruso would attest, he was a good man, warm, generous and sincere, and Joe recognized it instantly and they became fast friends.

So, when Jerry called and asked if there was any chance that I come out for a visit a year later, I knew why; he wanted to say good-bye. With great respect, my son Joe asked if he could join me on the trip and after discussing it with my wife, Suzanne, he did. The trip was not a mournful or morose event; it was what Jerry had intended. We faced our last meeting with Jerry with the strength, humor, and dignity with which he faced his disease. "The Carusos are very strong people," Joe said to me on the flight home to New Jersey, and he was right.

Now, more than four years after his passing, thinking I was solely going for a visit with Jerry's brave widow, Geri, to whom I am very close, I realized that I had come to say my good-bye to Jerry as well. I went out several hours of our planned meeting time and retraced some of the steps I had taken with Jerry during past visits. It was a fulfilling morning. The time for our meeting come and so I arrived at the beautiful historic home that they had restored together, mostly after he was diagnosed!

We planned on a nice early dinner, but before that, she had something to show me. We drove for about 30 minutes to the beautiful and newly-constructed Osceola Medical Center. It was built about a mile from the old facility. The Grand Opening was just days away but the hospital's Director was at the front door to greet us and give a private tour. He asked about my friendship with Jerry because he shared one himself - talk about "personal care." When we went to the Oncology department I was deeply touched by a plaque outside a treatment suite naming it for Jerry Caruso. I know that he would be humbled and honored as well.

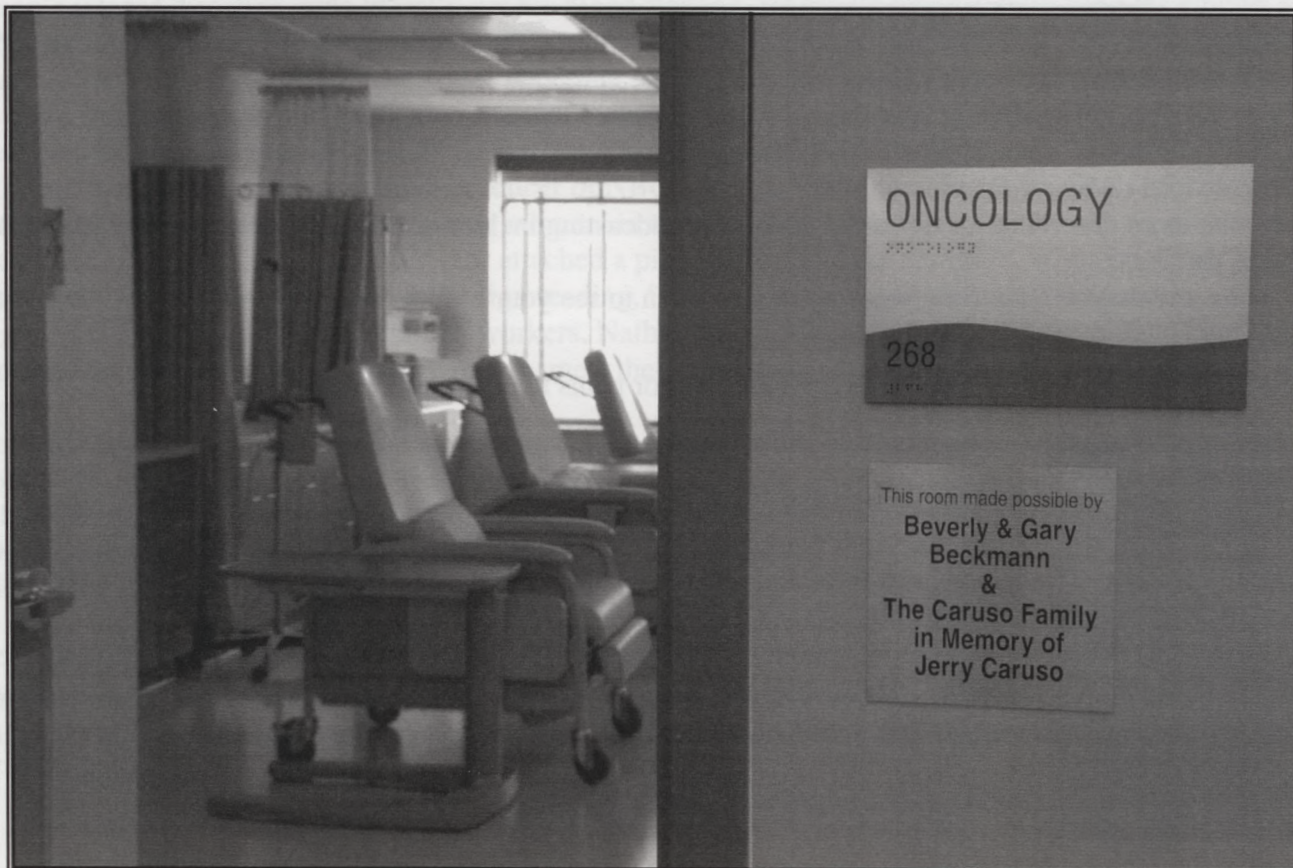
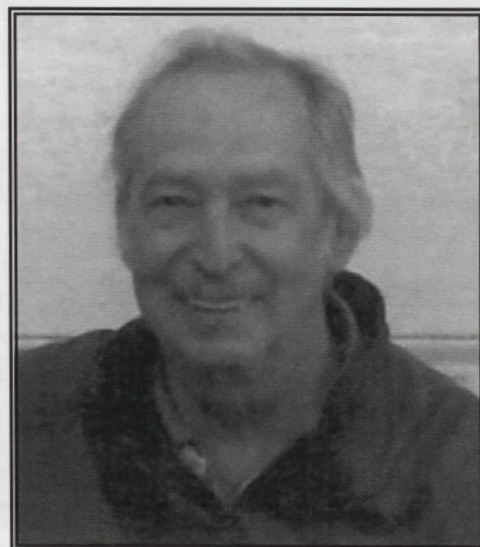
The new Osceola Medical Center was truly a community project. Much of its cost was gathered through fundraising efforts by the community it serves and from donations by people like me: people who were greatly touched by the compassionate, unsurpassed medical care and friendship given to someone very important to them. I heard that there wasn't a dry eye in the house the morning Jerry passed.

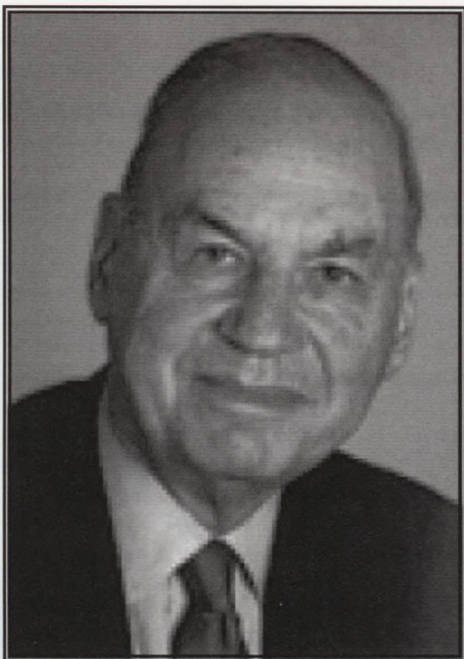
(Continued)

We at News Technical Services in Long Island City passed the hat and came up with \$500.00.
If you would care to make a donation to the hospital, any amount - \$10, \$20, or \$50 - will really help the cause.

Make check payable to Osceola Medical Center and mail to:

Geri Caruso
P.O. Box 203
Star Prairie WI 54026



Ah, there's good news tonight!**Ed Newman Turns 90!**

Ed Newman, NBC newsman from 1951 to 1984, **reached 90** on January 25 2009. The celebration was a quiet family affair. He feels lucky, very lucky, to have reached 90, with his wife, Rigel, and daughter, Nancy, both well also. He would like to send greetings to all his old colleagues and friends at Peacock North and has asked me to write since he hasn't caught up with email! He still loves words, music, jokes and puns. And you will want to know that he watched the 2008 election results come in with great joy – and was typically observant as the event unfolded. And on Inauguration Day, similarly, the old newsman did not miss a minute of the coverage! These events brought up so many thoughts of times past...

Nancy Drucker (Ed's daughter)

You can send notes to Ed via Bambi Tascarella at bambi.tascarella@nbcuni.com

Tony Kubek to be in Baseball Hall of Fame

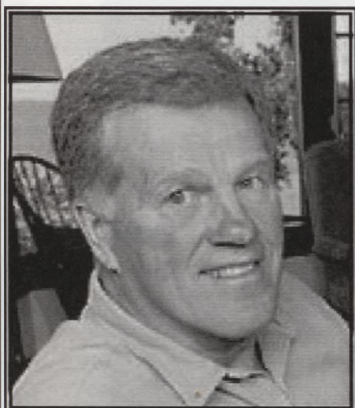
Hi All,

Some of you have probably already heard that it was announced that our own Tony Kubek has been awarded the Ford Fricke award that is his entry into the broadcast wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. He will be inducted next July 26th.

There is no one more deserving for his many years of broadcasting including more than 20 years on NBC's Baseball Game of the Week.

Congrats Tony and maybe I can finally get to Cooperstown to see your induction. I am sure all of us salute you in this great honor.

Ken Fouts, 12/9/08 [Ed. Note: Your Peacock North editor plans to attend this event]



From the Associated Press:

"I'd like to say it's an award that I've received because of what I did, but [my bosses] share an award like this," Kubek said on a conference call. "An award like this really shouldn't be about one person."

"For an entire generation of baseball fans, Tony Kubek was the face and the voice of the game," Hall president Jeff Idelson said. "In the days before all-sports TV networks, Tony brought baseball into your living room every Saturday afternoon for almost three decades. Over the years, he paired with play-by-play partners Jim Simpson, Curt Gowdy, Joe Garagiola and Bob Costas."

Ted Nathanson Inducted into Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame

Ted Nathanson was inducted to the Sports Hall of Fame on December 16th at the New York Hilton. It was a lovely occasion and very sentimental. It was a little teary as they showed 5 minute clips of every nominee, including Curt Gowdy and Don Ohlmeyer. Kleenex time. Best wishes for a happy, jollier 2009!

--Edith Nathanson

Perhaps the only director to don protective elbow pads before his broadcasts, Teddy Nathanson was a study in contrasts. Absent-minded and forgetful outside the production truck, he was laser-sharp inside it, directing 21 Wimbledon championships and 13 Super Bowls during his 37 years at NBC. With intensity tempered by a penchant for practical jokes, Nathanson's youthful exuberance colored his entire career.

"Teddy was like a great basketball player in that he raised the level of performance of everyone around him," explains Steve Hellmuth, executive vice president of operations and technology at the NBA. "He strived for excellence by empowering and soliciting ideas from everyone."

Nathanson's career began in the mailroom at CBS, but "he was dying to get into sports," explains Edith Nathanson, Teddy's widow. After working his way through the entertainment ranks at ABC, Nathanson landed at NBC, where he worked his way into sports, spending nearly four decades directing baseball, boxing, football, hockey, golf, and tennis, as well as two Olympic Games.

"He was always thinking about how he could make his telecasts better," explains Ken Aagaard, executive vice president of operations and production services for CBS Sports.

"He really laid the groundwork for the standards of the way football is covered."

Pioneering the use of handheld and remote-controlled cameras and instant replay, Nathanson changed the look of football coverage, coloring his broadcasts with unusual reaction shots that matched his personality.

Nathanson's intense directing style literally got his blood flowing. He would emphatically bang his elbows and knees against the console, bloodying himself to the point of requiring two surgeries. For every telecast thereafter, he suited up in synch with the athletes he covered, donning elbow pads and a neck brace before taking his place in the truck.

"Because he was so heavily encumbered by all of his corset-like padding, he would have to loosen his pants," recalls Michael Weisman, former executive producer of NBC Sports. "Very often, his pants would flop down to his knees, making for an occasional embarrassing moment in the truck."

On at least one occasion, the devilish director attached a piece of paper to his shirttails. When he stood, his pants inevitably came loose and revealed an 8x10 sign reading, "HI!!!!," immediately breaking the tension.

Treating his crews more like family than co-workers, Nathanson was legendary for his generosity. "He cared about all the production people, knew all their family names, their birthdays, what was happening in their lives," Weisman says.

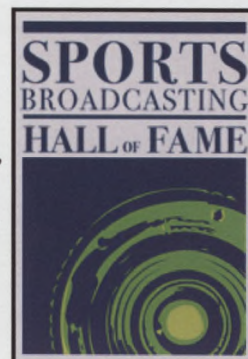
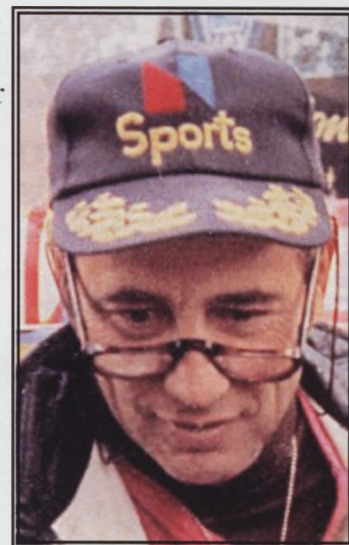
Every holiday season, Nathanson made sure everyone he worked with — from executives to cashiers and telephone operators — received a gift worthy of their contributions.

"His television crews worshipped him," Edith says. "He considered them part of his world. They were not just technicians, grips, or engineers; they were buddies."

Nathanson turned every broadcast into a family affair but saved plenty of time for his own family. All of his children — Michael, Laura, and Carla — "got the television germ," as Edith says, before Teddy's death from lung cancer in 1997.

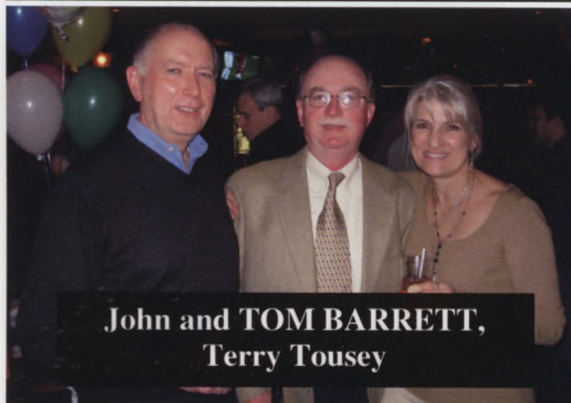
Despite his constant forgetfulness and zany sense of humor, or perhaps because of them, Teddy Nathanson was one of a kind: a gifted director who was loved by everyone who had the privilege of working with him.

—Carolyn Braff, Sports Video Group

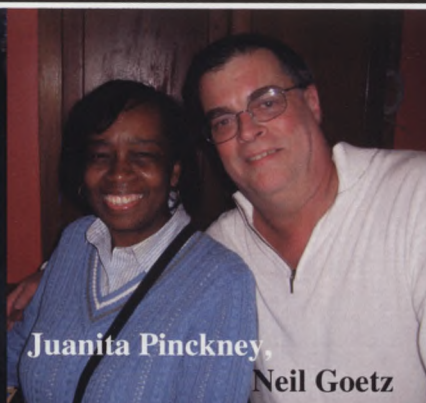


We Get Pictures

Major Retirement Party for 8 Production Video Tape Folk
 More than 120 friends and relatives celebrated at the Pig 'n' Whistle on February 27th
 Honoree names are in CAPS in photo captions



John and **TOM BARRETT**,
Terry Tousey



Juanita Pinckney,
Neil Goetz



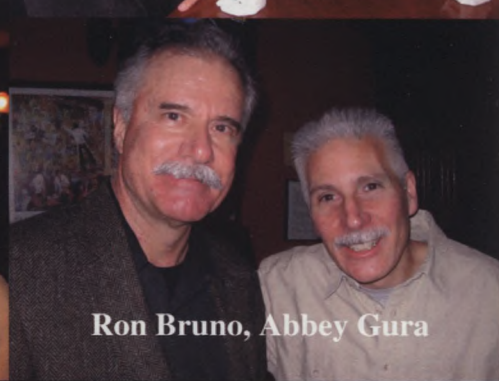
Jeanette Adorno,
JOHN LEE



KATHY BABIAK, Joel Spector



Steve Vogel
Ed Chin



Ron Bruno, Abbey Gura

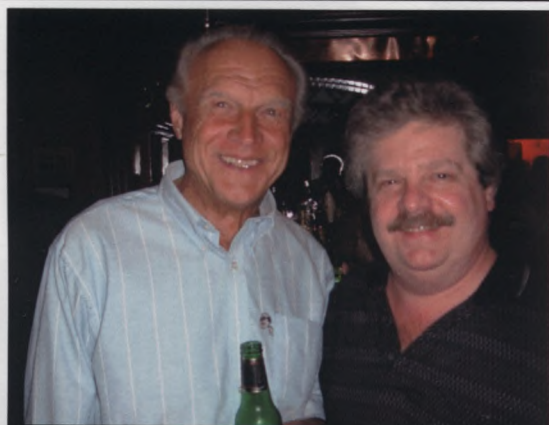


BOB YANONE, Bob Buccaro, Bob Soehl,
Rich Lowen



John Russo, **GEORGE BUSHELL**,
Rich Langwell, Antonio Richardson





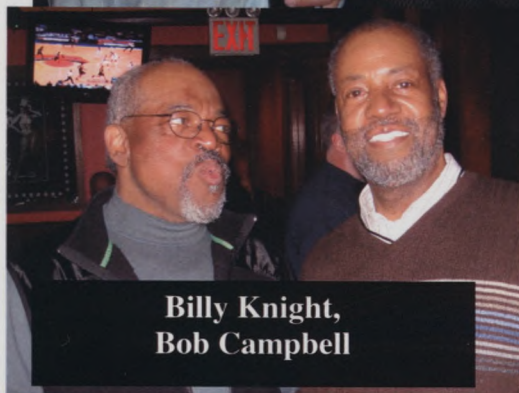
MARK CHOMUT, Mike Gismondi



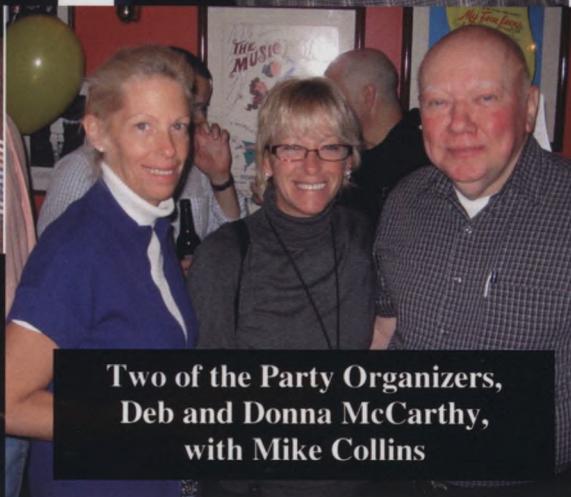
**FRANK MURATORE,
With LED badge**



**MARK
JANKELOFF**



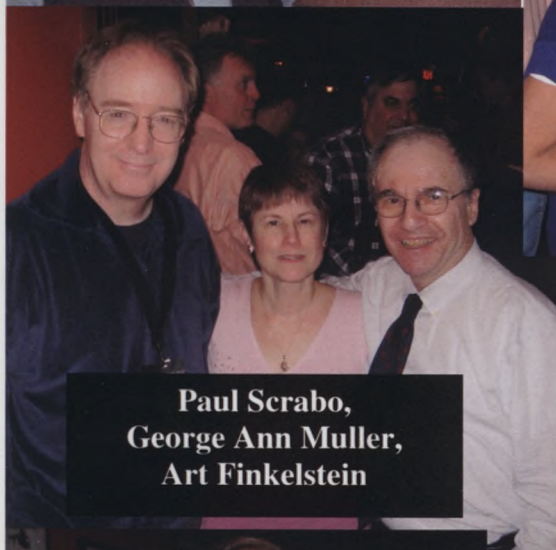
**Billy Knight,
Bob Campbell**



**Two of the Party Organizers,
Deb and Donna McCarthy,
with Mike Collins**



**Ginny Seipt,
Randy Wands**



**Paul Scrabo,
George Ann Muller,
Art Finkelstein**



Bill Clark, Joe Bonano



Wayne Leone, Marilyn Altman



Carrise and Dennis Barnes

We Get Pictures



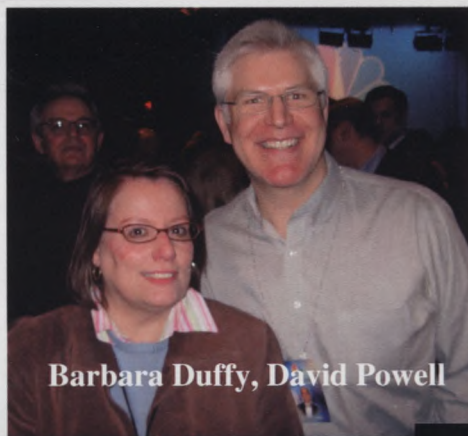
ARRIVEDERCI ALONGI!

Hundreds of colleagues, friends and family filled Studio 8H on March 3rd to celebrate Phil's career, which spans more than thirty years





Hoda Kotb



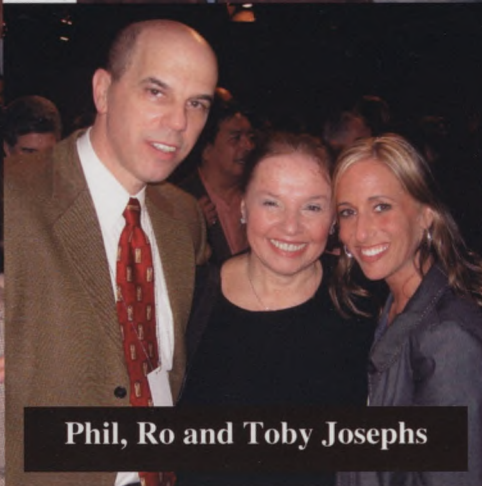
Barbara Duffy, David Powell



**Bambi Tascarella, Bonnie Optekman,
Michael and Jessica Alongi**



**Marilyn Altman,
Judy Farinet**



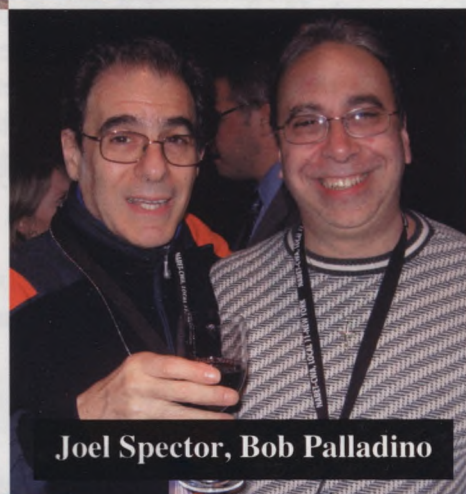
Phil, Ro and Toby Josephs



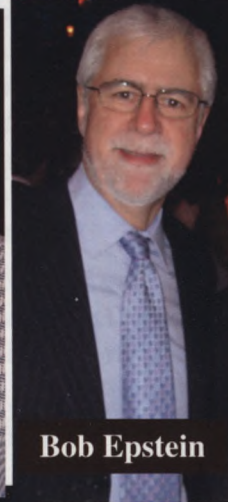
**Jim Gaines, Ray Herbert,
Kelly Atkinson, Larry Gaetano**



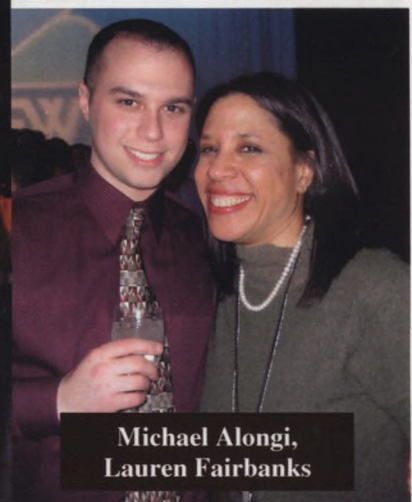
**Marc Burstein,
Ann Curry**



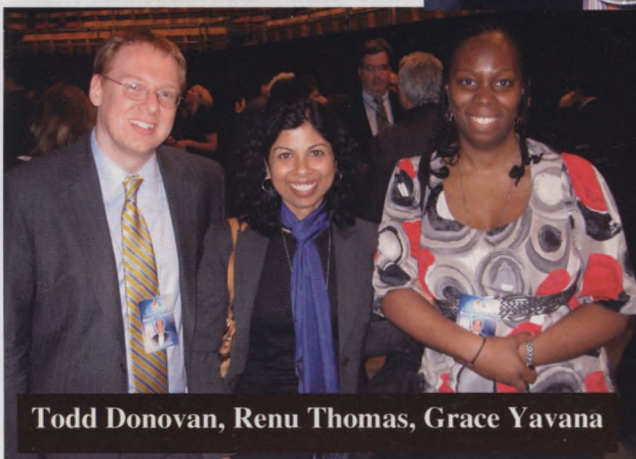
Joel Spector, Bob Palladino



Bob Epstein



**Michael Alongi,
Lauren Fairbanks**



Todd Donovan, Renu Thomas, Grace Yavana



Joe Raznik



Lloyd Siegel, Bill Wheatley, Gene Farinet

Family Members say goodbye to "The House That 'Boppo' Built"

Christine Glidden's Granddad James Escher and Yankee Stadium

By Terry Lefton, Street and Smith's Sports Business Journal, November 3, 2008

Nearly 4.3 million people passed through Yankee Stadium's turnstiles in its final year, with many more intent on saying goodbye to the historic structure than in witnessing that day's competition. It is a venue with a legacy we may never see again, built to showcase the exploits of a singular athlete, Babe Ruth.

Since it was built in 1923, Yankee Stadium has been home to 39 World Series, with the home team winning 26, and it's difficult to believe another venue or team will ever eclipse those records.

Hall of Fame baseball scribe **Fred Leib** gave Yankee Stadium the moniker, "The House That Ruth Built," shortly after it opened, but there was a more practical side to building baseball's most lustrous diamond. Yankee Stadium's contractor, selected from about 40 bidders, was **White Construction**, which used 20,000 cubic yards of concrete to build the stadium, along with 2,300 tons of steel, 1.5 million feet of lumber and more than a million brass screws.

James Escher headed White Construction, a New York firm that also built Hayden Planetarium and part of Aqueduct Raceway. On a sparkling recent fall Friday, during a rare October when MLB's postseason had bypassed the Bronx, seven members of Escher's family gathered at Yankee Stadium to say farewell to a building whose meaning to them was well beyond baseball. Yankee fans can and do blather on about their team's legacy. Still, when your grandfather built "The House That Ruth Built," it's altogether a different manner of heritage.

"We all used to hear stories from him about the stadium," said **Christine Escher Glidden**, a granddaughter of Escher, who produced and directed TV sports for 30 years, including five Olympic Games.

Glidden organized the farewell tour, but hadn't visited "The House That Grandpa Built" for 30 years, until the recent gathering. "I just thought the family should get together and say goodbye," she said. Family members, along with some friends, toured the field, dugouts, Monument Park and the press box. There were close descendants like Glidden, and those more distant, like **Chris Escher**, a San Francisco native who met some relatives for the first time during what was his first and last visit to Yankee Stadium. James Escher's brother was Chris' grandfather.

"It was a great excuse to come east and remarkable to walk around a piece of history and think your family had a part in it," Chris Escher said.

Like the ancient faithful, ever searching for a piece of the "true cross" of the crucifixion, many on the tour wanted their own piece of history. "They kept telling us not to pick up any dirt and grass from the field," Escher said, with a chuckle. "When they turned around, we kept picking it up."

The field was still lined and manicured, even with no baseball left to be played. You wonder what the Yankees were still maintaining their lawn for. Maybe it was just a final tribute.

White Construction finished Yankee Stadium in 284 days at a cost of about \$2.5 million, about \$600,000 less than the average salary of today's MLB players. Family members often repeated Escher's boast of finishing the stadium "on time and under budget." However, **Harry Swanson**, author of "Ruthless Baseball: Yankees Purified by Fire Stadium Construction," maintains that by the time the stadium was complete, White Construction and the Yankees were embittered. White Construction was still pressing for payment during the last month of the 1923 season. All that probably accounts for granddaughter **Amy Escher de Haas**' memory of her grandfather telling her "don't talk to me about Yankee Stadium."

According to de Haas, who was also along on the tour, "There were weeks of rain during construction, which means the cement didn't congeal right, and that slowed things up and ate into profits."

Other factors slowing construction included a railroad strike and difficulties condemning some of the roads around the stadium site.



“Boppo’s” Family at Yankee Stadium

**L-R: Eliza Escher de Haas - great-granddaughter
Katie Escher de Haas - great-granddaughter
Amy Escher de Haas - granddaughter
Chris Escher - his great grandfather was my grandfather's brother
Christine D. Glidden - granddaughter and organizer of tour
Jennifer Escher Sheehan - granddaughter
Ben Escher - grandson
Chris Escher - great-grandson**

During their 90-minute tour with a Yankee official, the group wasn't allowed to run the bases or permitted in the Yankees locker room, in deference to some players cleaning out their cubicles. Nonetheless, “it’s always fun to go places where most people can’t, and to have your family sitting next to you in the Yankees’ dugout — that was really special,” said de Haas. “The new Yankee Stadium looks so much like the original it’s amazing, but for all the obvious reasons, it’s still really heartbreaking to have this one pulled down.”

Something the stadium builder’s family discovered was that baseball memories aren’t the only indelible part of Yankee Stadium. “They told us that no one pours that much concrete to build anything anymore,” Glidden said. “They said it’s going to take forever to tear the place down because of how well it was built. I guess that’s the last thing our family can be proud of about Yankee Stadium.”

Terry Lefton can be reached at tlefton@sportsbusinessjournal.com.

Christine (glidden1@optonline.net) would like PN readers to know that she couldn’t have pulled this tour off without the help of fellow former NBC Sports person Bob Basche. He is now CEO of Millsport a division of fellow Omni-com agency “The Marketing Arm.”

What's Now: John Thomas



Wow! Its been 10 years since I left NBC. I immediately took advantage of the educational stipend that was offered and completed a short course in landscape architecture and design at Rutgers University and received a certificate. I still enjoy the garden.

I am now living in Cambridge, NY, on top of Colifax Mountain, a great view! Greatview is also the name of our kennel. I have become a dog handler and breeder, finishing my own champion and breeding others. Greatview Collies can be found from Maine to the Caribbean I am currently Vice-President of the Collie Club of Northeastern New York. My success only comes by way of my wife of 40 plus years, Doreen, whose love, knowledge and passion keeps me encouraged.

My other husbandry includes goldfish and koi. I had built an ornamental pond but because of the Northern climate I have to move the fish indoors every winter and back out in the spring, making possible this year's 10th Annual "GREATVIEW Goldfish Rodeo & Koi Roundup". (Fish wranglers and drovers need not apply).

On the weekends if I am not on the road for a dog show I can be found playing chess at the Salem Library with that old NABET dog, Henry Makrin.

Mel Rock has family in the area so we get together and go to the racetrack at Saratoga in August. Kathy Salvio has also made the journey to Greatview. A few years back she and Mel invited Doreen and I to visit them in Tuscany, Italy. What a wonderful two weeks.

Good memories, great friends.

Best Regards,

JT

bosco516@aol.com

What's Now**WNBC goes digital in big news update with new channel New York Nonstop**

(L-R) NBC's Meredith McGinn,
Tom O'Brien and Vickie Burns
at the new 'content center'
located in the 7th floor newsroom.

NBC'S long-promised new digital channel, New York Nonstop, launched Monday, March 9th at 5 a.m. as the company's latest step to drive content to as many people as possible. **New York Nonstop** will be available to 5.7 million viewers on cable and over the air on digital channel 4.2. It's billed as a "local information and lifestyle channel," not just a news channel and not designed to compete directly with cable news operation NY1.

"First and foremost," said Vickie Burns, vice president of news and content for WNBC and New York Nonstop, in an interview Tuesday, "it's all things New York, things that are newsworthy and interesting and engaging, and we mean New York in that universal and inclusive sense."

The channel will have news updates every 15 minutes, but the only fixed show with a slight hint of a traditional newscast will be a 7 p.m. hour anchored by Chuck Scarborough (who will continue to do the 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts on Ch. 4). The new channel will be built on a "pod format," using set features of various lengths, said Meredith McGinn, senior manager of special projects for NBC 4 New York. "You'll get your meat - your news, weather and headlines - every 15 minutes," McGinn said. "In between those 15 minutes, you may have a two-minute segment, a two-minute pod, a five-minute pod. So the shows we're looking at are in little bits, not your traditional half-hour newscasts."

New York Nonstop will be more like NBC's local Web sites than a traditional TV station. Those sites are geared toward younger viewers who seek a mix of information. The sites often use information and clips from bloggers and third-party providers, as will New York Nonstop. McGinn said the pod structure keeps the energy level high. "It's like having your iPod on shuffle," she said. "You can't wait until the next song because you know something good is going to come, you just don't know what it is." Some of the shorter examples include "Sidewalk Stories," where a correspondent asks people about current events or about bad dates. There also will be daily and prime-time reruns of shows produced by LX.TV (the NBC-owned producer of Ch. 4's "1st Look New York" and "Open House"). Plans for the channel were revealed in May 2008, as part of a program of change at NBC's owned stations. The umbrella company is now called NBC Local Media New York. Ch. 4, New York Nonstop, the Web site and other platforms that come along are to be supplied by a new \$15 million digital "content center."

Advertising is being sold across the platforms, too, said Tom O'Brien, president of NBC Local Media New York. "We'll make money within the first year," he said. But the transition hasn't been easy. All off-camera staff had to apply for new multimedia positions. Some experienced people have left, and some new ones have been hired. Several familiar on-air folks, such as Jay DeDapper and Carolyn Gusoff, have been jettisoned.

"Change is necessary," Burns said. "We like the results of the change. We've been very focused on what we needed to do, very focused on engaging people in that process and bringing them with us, and getting ideas and hopefully inspiration from them."

--By Richard Huff, NY Daily News, March 4th, 2009

Looking BACK

By Frank Vierling

George Washington's Inauguration, 1789

The states ratified the US Constitution in June 1788. The following February the new nation's Electoral College selected George Washington as our first President. Washington left Mount Vernon on April 16, 1789 for New York City, then our nation's capital, for his inauguration.

His journal entry for that day noted: "... I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity, and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York... with the best dispositions to render service to my country in obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations." (*These very words Barack Obama might have used as he took the oath of office.*)

The journey to New York took seven days and celebrations erupted along the route — Alexandria, Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Trenton and others.

At Elizabethtown, NJ, on April 23, a ceremonial barge, built expressly by the citizens of New York, waited to take Washington across the river to Manhattan. A Spanish packet-boat, anchored in the harbor, fired a salute which was repeated by the "battery" and the fort.

"His Excellency was received by Governor George Clinton, the mayor of the city and other officers...[with] Governor Clinton at his side, [Washington] entered the house prepared by Congress for his use."

Taking the Oath of Office

It took a week for the House and the Senate to iron out their differences over how the inauguration should be conducted. Finally, on April 30, Washington was escorted to Federal Hall on Wall Street, to the Senate Chamber. Washington, Vice President John Adams, Senators and Representatives stepped onto a balcony overlooking the street filled with a cheering crowd. The oath was administered by Chancellor Robert R. Livingstone — New York's highest ranking judge.

After the oath, Washington returned to the Senate Chamber where he gave a short speech.

A witness wrote: "This great man was agitated and embarrassed more than ever he was by the leveled cannon or pointed musket. He trembled, and several times could scarce make out to read, though it must be supposed he had often read it before."

The pattern was set for future inaugurations. Martha did not attend the Inaugural Ball.

It took 56 years for the electron to enter the picture. On March 4, 1845 Samuel F. B. Morse described James Polk's inaugural proceedings to the nation via his telegraph.

It took another 80 years, March 4, 1925, for radio to broadcast Calvin Coolidge's inauguration to a national audience, and on March 4, 1929 Herbert Hoover's ceremony was recorded by "talking newsreel."

Television entered the inaugural picture on January 20, 1949 for Harry S. Truman's ceremony. His Philadelphia convention was also the first to be televised.

I joined NBC on January 6, 1949, fresh out of RCA Institute. Too late to be involved with Harry Truman but early enough to be involved with the preparations for the next presidential cycles.

NBC had a grand idea for the 1956 Eisenhower inauguration: cover the procession from the White House to the capitol building from within the parade. From this idea the Cadillac mobile unit was born. I believe it was first used covering Eisenhower's nominating convention in San Francisco.

The *Top of the Mark* (San Francisco's Mark Hopkins Hotel) was the main microwave receiver point to pick up locations around the city and Eisenhower's motorcade from the airport to convention hall. I was located with a receiver on a hillside, at a point along the route to catch the entourage when it first appeared around



NBC's Cadillac Mobile Unit. The cameraman and microwave operator stood on hydraulic height-adjustable platforms, one next to the driver, the other behind the driver. A generator in the trunk supplied the needed power. Two 50 caliber gun-turret ring mounts allowed the camera and microwave to swing 360 degrees. Camera and microwave positions were interchangeable depending on "show" requirements. Inside there was room for the director, TD/Video and Audio/Microwave operators.

some hills and then pass it off to *The Mark*.

CBS also had a camera traveling with the cavalcade. As I watched my TV off-air monitor, I saw the switch from my received pictures to *The Mark* pictures.

Our studio announcer was describing this live scene as the cars sped along the highway. He was also explaining how NBC was using our Cadillac mobile unit to bring live action into America's living rooms. As he talked the picture widened outhis voice faded as the picture being airing revealed both Eisenhower's car and the Cadillac! *The Mark* was picking up, and NBC was broadcasting, CBS's camera unit! Was CBS on the wrong frequency, or were we?

How I wish I had kept a diary! Conventions and inaugurations are a jumble in my mind now. I can't be sure events are in the right order. Here is an event I'm sure happened during Stevenson's Chicago convention in 1956.

NBC had a studio setup in a delegates' hotel (name escapes me) on Chicago's Michigan Avenue. Early one morning we noticed a crowd on the sidewalk opposite us and discovered it was Harry Truman giving one of his famous walking press conferences. I thought, why not put the Cadillac on the sidewalk, trail a microphone from the Caddy and lead the press down the avenue. It was a "first" and a great success and news scoop for NBC news and the *Today Show*. If the police had any thought of issuing a ticket, I'm sure the novelty of the situation and Truman's presence dispelled that idea. We didn't repeat it.

From our hotel mezzanine studio, we did interviews and a variety of spots for the *Today Show* and daily convention coverage. We ran cables (microphone and camera) to any place in the hotel where Production thought we might get a scoop on our rival nets.

One eager announcer, hanging out at the elevator banks, tried for an interview with a rushing prospect who brushed him off by entering an elevator. Our reporter, not to lose a prospect, followed him in, the doors shut, and the interview came to an abrupt halt when the microphone was snatched from his hand when the cable ran out!

In my convention timeline I got involved with RCA's hand-held camera which RCA had christened the *Walkie-Lookie*. That name was soon replaced with *Creepie-Peepie* or just *Creepie*. While the camera was hand-held it required a 25 pound backpack to run it. Sal Benza had been closely associated with its early use but was now busy elsewhere. I inherited it in 1960 for Nixon's convention in Chicago and John F. Kennedy's convention in Los Angeles.

For John F. Kennedy's swearing in, I was assigned with the *Creepie* to both his inauguration and inaugural ball.

NBC didn't want CBS or ABC to know we would be using the *Creepie*. I spent a week, "in hiding," at WRC, our Washington station. For a week I checked equipment out, charged batteries, and tried to look busy. Finally, the

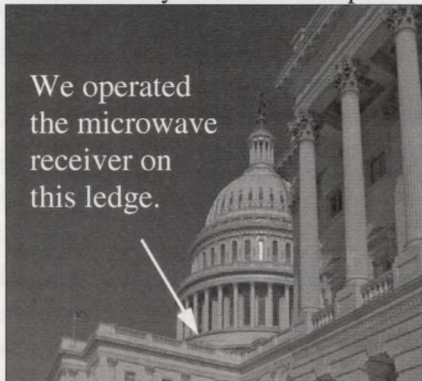
day before the inauguration, I was able to move to the capitol and "marry" my equipment with WRC's setup in the "crypt" below the capitol rotunda. I was not overly welcomed when they learned they had to shut down their equipment and restart it controlled by my *Creepie*! After settling that question, I had cables to run to strategic locations. Heavy, wet snow began to fall and an easy job became difficult.

Washington is not equipped for snow. My work finished, it was time to head for my hotel. By now there were two inches of slushy snow on the ground and not a cab or bus in sight. It was a long, wet, cold hike, without boots, to my hotel. I had asked for a rental car, but that was denied. "Take a cab," I was told.

The next day all went well for the inauguration, but our day was not over. I was to move to the inaugural ball at Union Station. Where were those cabs I was told to take? Again, none in sight. With recruits from my new WRC friends we schlepped the gear through the snow to the ball.

Again I was not welcome when they found I required the marriage of our two systems. Again all went well.

I can't seem to fit the times I spent on the capitol dome into my timeline. No specific inaugural events come to mind. There were other events, such as Astronaut John Glenn's DC parade, but that wasn't from the dome, that was from the capitol's House-side attic.



With no elevator in the dome, it was *stairs and carry*. The last leg was a

curved stairway behind the row of columns. Once at our destination it was set up the gear on the stair landing on a thick layer of pigeon guano.

Then, of course, there was the transition to color. RCA had designed a color camera to send into space and adapted it for broadcast use. The camera was larger and heavier and the backpack was larger and heavier. We had four color cameras. Each required a rack of equipment and a video man. They were first used for Nixon's 1968 convention in Miami Beach. I was the TD. The four video men were Arnold Proner, Warren Winterhalter, Leon Dobbin and the fourth I can't remember. Al McClellan and Bob Butler kept the gear running and Lou Hathaway was our management advisor who worked with the RCA engineers adapting their space camera for earth-bound broadcasting.

I worked on 10 conventions and inaugurations — this year I'll watch my 7th duo in retirement!

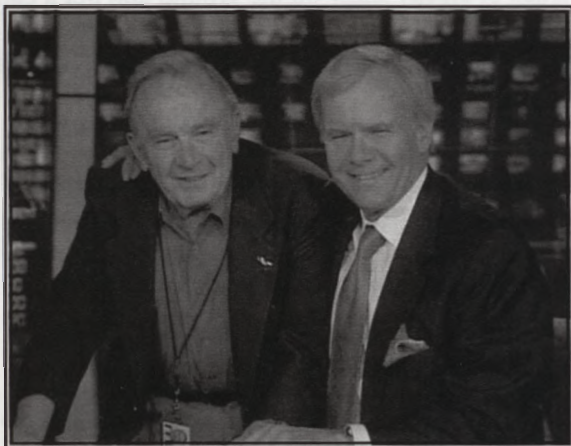
Frank Vierling retired from the Engineering Department in 1983. He lives in Oradell, NJ and summers on a lake in the woods of Maine.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Howard Reig

Howard Reig, whose authoritative baritone delivered "From NBC News world headquarters in New York, this is the 'NBC Nightly News'" as recently as 11 months ago*, died November 9th in Venice, FL, at 87.

He worked with evening news anchormen John Chancellor, Tom Brokaw and Brian Williams from 1983 until he retired in 2005. The network continued to use his recorded introduction until last December, when it tapped actor Michael Douglas to start the newscast.



"By my tally, he has introduced nearly 7,000 'Nightly' broadcasts," Brett Holey, director of the "NBC Nightly News," said after Reig's last broadcast. Williams delivered an on-air tribute to Reig on Wednesday.

The radio and television pioneer who taught high school English in New York for a year before venturing into broadcasting in 1943 "was one of the most humble men you could ever meet," said his son, Ken Reig, of Vermont.

"When he was asked by one of the activities directors in his assisted-living facility to stand up and tell everybody about his career, he stood up and said: 'I was a teacher. Thank you,' and then he sat down," his son said.

Reig's broadcasting career spanned more than 60 years. In his earlier days, he was a radio actor and hosted live Big Band shows, where he got to know Duke Ellington. He also had a daily, four-hour radio program that combined news, music and interviews. After joining NBC in 1952, he delivered news, weather and sports in various roles and did commercials and voice-overs. "If he ever considered himself a celebrity, it was during his radio and early television careers," his son said. "He was a newscaster back then and did a lot more than announcing."

Born May 31, 1921, in New York City, Reig received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education to become a teacher, but was soon drawn to broadcasting after accepting a summer job at a Schenectady radio station. For many years, Reig was also the off-camera voice of NBC's "Meet the Press" and handled announcing duties for the network's flagship station in New York City, WNBC-TV.

When he retired, his family created a Web site with archival photos and videos spanning his career. The retrospective can be viewed at howardreig.com. After retiring, Reig lived in New Jersey and on Florida's east coast before moving to Venice about six months ago to be closer to family, his son said. The elder Reig was born with a heart condition and suffered from heart disease in recent years. In addition to his son, he is survived by three other children and five grandchildren. [Ed. Note- A celebration of his life was held in the Nightly News studio (3C) on December 12th.]

--By Mark Zaloudek, HeraldTribune.com - *November 14, 2008

John Filippeli: Wonderful person and a class act. He made this business better simply by being part of it.

Paul Sheinfeld: Along with the iconic NBC chimes, there was Howard's voice. This novice local unit manager will always be grateful for Howard's friendship and advice.

Betty Cole Dukert: I would like to express my appreciation for the fine work and gracious cooperation Howard always gave to "Meet the Press" in the years when we fairly frequently originated programs from NBC/NY.

Don Ellis: I had the pleasure of working with Howard back in the mid-fifties. He was the consummate professional and one of the large and versatile announcer staff that served both the local and network radio and television stations of NBC. He was helpful to this young broadcast coordinator/associate director back in those exciting days. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Marie Finnegan
Remembered by Mamye Smith**

Every once in a while you meet someone who had a profound effect on your life. The person has a special way of looking at life that is uplifting and positive. That person makes you feel good just being in her presence. Such a person was Marie Finnegan. She always had a smile and a kind word to say. She had that wonderful work ethic, took her job very seriously, and always wanted to do it, in her words, "to the best of my ability." She did and she did it so well. She loved life and people and lived each day joyfully.

Marie often said that she felt she had done something good with her day if she learned something. She loved talking with people. Whether it was reminiscing about her childhood growing up in the Bronx, or the early days at NBC, or inquiring after one's parents, she was both an interested and interesting person.

At her retirement party, held in the old NBC commissary in January of 1985, some of her closest friends at TODAY had been asked to say something on video tape that would be played at the party. Her boss Win Welpin remembered going into her office and asking her for a phone number. Now Marie worked hard and did not always pay that much attention to the piles of paper on her desk. But she knew where everything was. She just reached under the pile and came up with the phone number. That was Marie. Another one of her friends recalled having met Marie for the first time. As the new person on the show, everyone was whizzing by and didn't have time to stop and say hello. Then there was Marie. She was always in a hurry, delivering a routine or a commercial script. But she did stop, and introduce herself and asked the newcomer her name and waited to hear it. That one moment made such a difference. She never forgot it and vowed to do the same thing in the future to any new person she saw.

I am proud to say that Marie Finnegan was my friend.

Mamye Smith

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Rochelle Richilson Remembered by Carol Aerenson



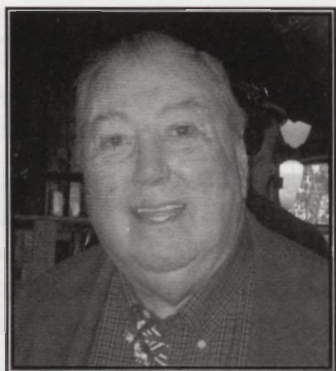
My dear friend and former NBC colleague Rochelle Richilson passed away on November 16, 2008 of cardiac arrest.

We first met back in 1973 or 1974. At that time we both worked on the 12th floor of 30 Rock – she for Len Allen and I for Dan O'Connor in the News Documentary unit. She eventually joined that my in 1976. She was one of my closest and dearest friends until the day she died. There could be no better or caring friend that Rochelle. Through the years we were always there for one another as we dealt with personal and NBC-related dramas. And, boy, could she make me laugh. She had a talent for mimicry of both people and dogs that would send the tears rolling down my face. Now I'm left with many wonderful shared memories of Rochelle.

The areas she worked in included Sales Administration; CATV/O&Os; Executive; Public Affairs; Documentaries; News Computer Operations and News Finance.

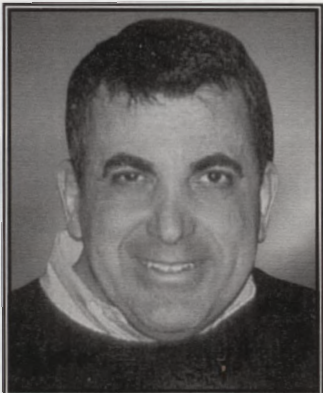
**Peacock North notes with great sadness the passing of three New York engineers -
Dick Doherty, Bailey Stortz and Bruce Schachat.**

Few details were available at press time. We send our heartfelt condolences to their families.



Dick was a boom operator on Saturday Night Live and Another World. PN has just learned that he passed away last July from prostate cancer. A Manhattanite, he was a lifelong theater enthusiast.

Bailey, a Tenaflly resident, was a cameraman on Late Night both with David Letterman and Conan O'Brien, as well also a crane boomer on Saturday Night Live. He passed away on February 10th, at age 65. He was the son of the late A. Wayne and Marguerite Stortz, brother of Elizabeth Gunther and husband Milton, and a loving uncle to three nieces and nine grand nieces and nephews.



Bruce, a long-time production video tape editor known as "Mr. Television" to his friends and co-workers at NBC, succumbed to cancer on February 17, 2009.

Burial was in Miami, FL, his birthplace, on February 20th.

A remembrance was held in NYC on March 31st. It was attended by more than fifty friends, colleagues and family members. We shared memories, some bittersweet and some riotously funny; a "very Bruce" occasion to be sure. Bruce's tireless efforts in training his co-workers in all the latest editing and graphics devices were extolled by many. The afternoon continued at a nearby restaurant, hosted by the family.

He is survived by sister Karen Becker (Joe), stepbrother Howard Duchin (Linda) and dearest friend Hal Schwartz (Karen).

-- Report by Joel Spector

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bill Corrigan**

Veteran television news executive Bill Corrigan, who headed NBC's newsgathering operations worldwide for more than a decade in a career that paralleled the growth of his industry, died Jan. 25 in Sarasota. He was 87. As general manager of the network's news operations for 13 years before retiring in 1981, Corrigan oversaw its foreign and domestic bureaus and its correspondents around the globe. He also traveled with five U.S. presidents -- Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford -- on foreign visits and was an associate producer of "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" during a career that included eight years at CBS. "In my 32 years with the networks, I was lucky to be involved in the great technological advances and most of the top news stories of the time," he wrote about his career after retiring. "When I started, radio was still the 'top dog' and television was a poor, upstart relation."

He began working in television news in the 1950s, when live newscasts carried black-and-white images of news events captured on motion picture film that had to be developed. Within a decade, news photographers with bulky cameras began using videotape, which did not need processing, and important stories competed for limited distribution via satellite, Corrigan recalled. Smaller and more convenient hand-held video cameras and improved satellite technology helped revolutionize gathering and disseminating the news later in his career.

Born Sept. 18, 1921, in Bridgeport, Conn., William T. "Bill" Corrigan served in the Army Air Corps during World War II as a tail gunner on combat missions over Japan. After the war, he received an undergraduate degree from American University in Washington, D.C., and joined NBC in 1948 to work in radio news in the nation's capital. Three years later, he was producing 15-minute newsreels on film five nights a week. The newsreels, featuring 10 or more stories, had to be shipped overnight by plane to NBC affiliates from coast to coast for broadcast the next morning.

While working for CBS News from 1953 to 1961, he helped end the practice of national newsmakers holding separate press conferences for print and broadcast media by threatening to boycott coverage of their restaged remarks to television and radio reporters. He spent six months in Jerusalem covering the war crimes trial of Adolph Eichmann as the pool reporter for the three major U.S. networks in 1961.

After returning to NBC later that year, he helped coordinate the network's coverage of international disarmament talks in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1962 and the peace talks in Paris in 1973 that brought an end to the Vietnam War. He served as director of NBC's news operations for three years before being named general manager.

"He was inquisitive, interesting, lively and liked to laugh a lot," said his wife, Harriett. He and his wife moved to Venice when he retired in 1981, and later moved to Sarasota. He had been in declining health after suffering a stroke in 2004. In addition to his wife of 57 years, he is survived by two sons, Kevin of Granville, Ohio, and Brian of Sarasota; a sister, Jean Bright, of Topsham, Maine; and a grandson.

A memorial service took place on Feb. 19 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Venice.

Memorial donations may be made to The Sunnyside Foundation, 5201 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL 34232.

--By Mark Zaloudek - February 7, 2009 - Herald Tribune

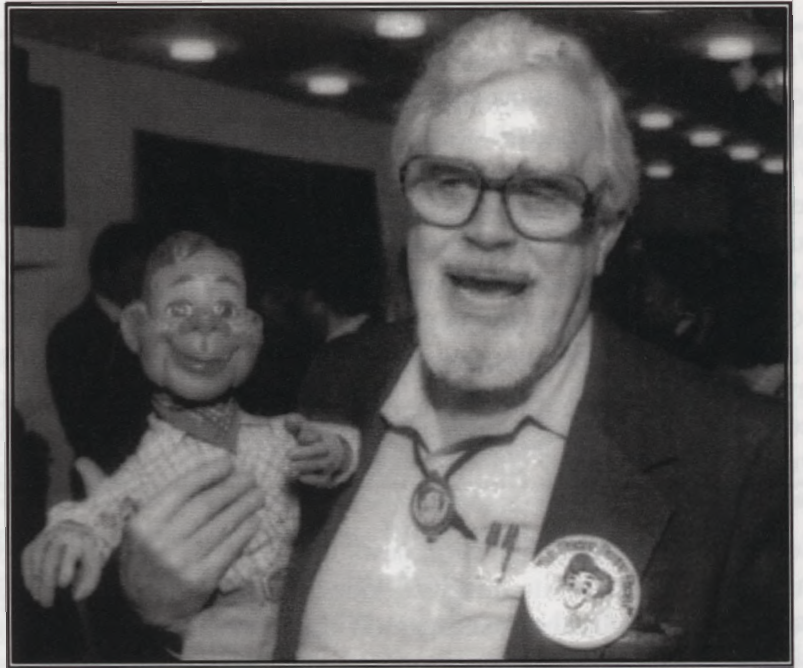


Tributes to Silent Microphones

E. Roger Muir

E. Roger Muir, who helped create and was executive producer of "The Howdy Doody Show," the puppet-and-people program that first hooked millions of kids on television in its early days, died October 23rd near his home in Wolfeboro, N.H. Mr. Muir, who went on to produce other successful shows, including "Concentration," was 89. The cause was a stroke, his son, Warren, said.

At a time when big, bulky wood-encased television sets were first coming out of their crates in homes across the country, "The Howdy Doody Show" was perhaps the primary attraction that brought baby-boom children in from their after-school play in time to settle down before dinner and maybe even homework. Mr. Muir produced the show throughout its 13-year run on NBC, from 1947 to 1960, and was co-producer with Nick Nicholson of its syndicated version, "The New Howdy Doody Show," in 1976 and 1977.



"Say, kids, what time is it?" Buffalo Bob Smith would call out to the children in the Peanut Gallery. "It's Howdy Doody time," they would roar back. Buffalo Bob, a human, and Howdy, a freckle-faced puppet, would prance with the likes of Clarabell the Clown, a horn-honking human, and other puppets, like the always-grumpy Phineas T. Bluster.

In 1961 Mr. Muir and Mr. Nicholson started their own production company. Together, according to The Encyclopedia of TV Game Shows, they produced, among other programs, "The Newlywed Game," which was later taken over by Chuck Barris; "Pay Cards!," a game show based on poker; and "Concentration."

Ernest Roger Muir was born in Alberta, Canada, on Dec. 16, 1918, the son of Ernest and Helen Rogers Muir. The family moved to Minneapolis in 1930, and Mr. Muir graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941. Besides his son, Mr. Muir is survived by his second wife, Barbara Horn-Muir; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson. His first wife, Phyllis Stirn, died in 1976.

While in college, Mr. Muir studied photography. In 1941 he was drafted into the United States Army and assigned to a film production unit. Another soldier in that unit was Warren Wade, who had already worked for NBC. After the war, with a referral from Mr. Wade, Mr. Muir was hired by NBC and was soon producing or directing programs, including "Who Said That?," a quiz show featuring journalists and celebrities who tried to name the source of quotations plucked from recent news. Among other programs that he worked on were "The NBC Opera," "Your Hit Parade" and "Wide Wide World."

Mr. Muir had the idea of having Howdy Doody run for president of the boys and girls in the election year of 1948 and received thousands of requests for campaign buttons. The show taught children about politics, and the very American idea that anyone can grow up to be president, even a marionette.

You may share your memories with

The Muir Family

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New Peacock North Members

Harry Baker started his career in Central Files in the Summer of 1969 and returned as a Vacation Relief engineer in Radio in 1970 - and never left! He transferred to TV in 1977 and is based in Long Island City with Network News Technical Services. He lives in Westhampton, NY.

NBC News veteran Jim Hartz co-anchored WNBC newscasts including NewsCenter 4 from 1964 to 1974 and then co-hosted the Today Show for three years. He resides in Alexandria, VA.

Steve Vogel has worked in Video Tape Operations from 1978 to now. He resides in Manhattan with his wife, Allison, a former engineer.