

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

## CELEBRANTS DEFY MOTHER NATURE

by bill brogan

Over an inch and a half of rain fell on New York City on May 31st, driven, at times, by gale force winds. And yet they came: **GIGI HAROLD** from Cape Cod; **GLORIA CLYNE** from Greenwood Lake and over a hundred other brave souls from Manhattan and the suburbs. Inside La Maganette, as the embers of old friendships warmed the hearts of the celebrants, the Tenth Annual Membership Meeting of Peacock North went off without a hitch. Well, almost. There were six no shows, among them a special guest, Candice Bergen, whose excuse was that Danny Quayle refused to babysit.

The Cocktail Hour was a flea market of second hand information: Yes, **PAT TRESE** is still writing the book; Ken Donohue is still free-lancing for the "Port of Authority"; **JOE ANGOTTI** is either in Bucharest teaching the Romanian government how to stage free elections, or in Budapest counseling Hungarian TV on the use of exit polling in their coverage. **VERA MAYER** was unavailable to confirm or deny.

When the gossip subsided, the party dissolved into groups of ten, or in some cases nine or eleven, as friends jockeyed chairs and place settings in order to sit together. At this point some solid information became available: **GINNY SEIPT** free-lancing for the Today Show; **LOIS MARINO** vice presidenting at Madison Square Garden; **AL VECCHIONE** presidenting at MacNeil/Lehrer Productions; **JOAN GIFFORD** influencing the economy on Wall Street; **DON** and **RUTH MEANEY** enjoying retirement in Brielle, New Jersey.

**JOHNNY ANDREWS** of "Easy Does It" opened a semi-formal program by recalling the 106th Street studios where he originated three radio and two television programs each weekday. A columnist of the time remarked, "Don't turn on your water faucet. You might get Andrews."

**IRV SOBEL** greeted the guests as the representative of the Florida Retirees--some of us call them Peacock: cont'd Page. 2.

## THE END

by dan grabel

We usually place the two words we've entitled this piece at the end of the article, but you'll soon realize why we've put it at the top.

In June, Pete Peterson got the word, NBC could no longer hoot the 25 year club bash, the event that saw new veterans inducted into the honored group, and gave old vets a chance to meet once more to renew memories of the "good old days"! We are all sorry to learn the news -- the event was the victim of more belt tightening, and is understandable in today's economy. Management's position is that the expenditure would be unconscionable while they are planning more "down-sizing" just about the time the old gang would be celebrating. One could argue NBC spends plenty of big bucks on other frills. Maybe it does. But the 25 year event is a high visibility affair, so it had to go.

The end of an era is a reflection too, of this day when the per diem employee is becoming more of a mainstay at 30 Rock than the cadre of old which saw its tenure as a lifetime contract. We can still argue that longevity brings with it loyalty and dedication to the job. But when society thinks that everything quickly becomes obsolete, and that that is okay; *that everything* includes veteran employees who may cost more because of the perks.

We might wonder if GE has a 25 year club, and if it does, do they have an annual gathering??

But maybe it won't be all bad, this end of the 25 year club reunion, for it gives us another important reason to be part of Peacock North. And a great reason to attend several annual luncheons. As we grow grayer (if not older) we realize more and more the important part our colleagues played in our day to day lives for a quarter of century or more. Peacock North provides the arena to recall the good times, so let's hear a cheer for the big bird! And let's all show up at our next social! NBC (and GE) made it possible to enjoy the current golden years in a reasonably comfortable fashion, and that's something retirees in the years to come will find hard to duplicate. ###

## PN PEOPLE

by heino ripp



**GENE HAMILTON** [ Classy announcer ] writes from Apache Junction in Arizona: The economy being what is, I will take advantage of the news in PN that it is no longer necessary for those 80 and over to pay dues. I'm coming up to 83 soon, so send me no more bills!..Peacock North makes great reading!

I came to NY in 1934 - after years in Cleveland (WTAM with John Royal, and Chicago, all NBC). Gene promises a letter if he can recall some interesting events. [We'll be delighted, Gene]. Sends "Best Wishes to anyone old enough to remember me".... signed *Gene Hamilton* - "Dr. Gino" to music lovers... **GEORGE COX** writes he can't get to the lunches for a while, cause he took a part time job with a bank. Drives around Poughkeepsie, Newburgh highland and Marlborough. Thanks for thinking about us George, come when you can.... I sent **IRA SKUTCH** a copy of PN [Dir/Produc'r I've Got a Secret -Match game plus other Goodson Todman: cont'd **Page 4.**



South--and invited all to their midwinter meeting in Orlando. **IRV MESSING** reported on a recent golf outing sponsored by Peacock North. **ENID ROTH** recalled her "...beautiful life at NBC...when I *couldn't wait* to get to work in the morning!"

For a **Today Show retrospective**, understudy **ALIDA MESROP** performed for **MARIE FINNEGAN** who, according to Alida, was overcome with shyness. Alida's reminiscence was rife with examples of arcane language, ie. Telop, 35 millimeter film, and one very long word, "Margemacglyninkine." She referred to **JIMMY FIDDLER, LILLIAN RUSSO, TOM NAUD**, who married "Miss Persian Rug", **ANN KRAMER, KAY HENDERSON** of Continuity Acceptance, **JOE CULLIGAN, MARY KELLY**, who travelled the world with **J. FRED MUGGS**. She remembered when Hurley's was a "cheap bar," and gave tribute to the "Toots Shor".

Alida also described **LYN SAFIRE's** trip to the center of the George Washington Bridge early one morning. Late for a Today Show remote, Lyn threw a raincoat over his pajamas and flagged a cab. In those days a New York cabbie would not only know the location of the George Washington Bridge but would have an innate concern for the welfare of his passenger. Lyn spent the whole trip urging speed on his driver while listening to reasoned counselling on the alternatives to suicide. Alida also mentioned the confusion resulting from booking the author, **Cleveland Amory**, and having an affiliate remote dispatched to Cleveland Armory.

Pete Peterson who presided, delivered an appreciation of the "Rain Travellers" efforts to be present, and talked about the pro's and con's of benefits received from RCA and GE. "We can be thankful that we are presently protected by the Health Care package offered by GE", as one of the megacompanies that have committed themselves financially to a continuing Health Care program for workers and retirees.

Pete announced NBC plans to reduce the current "25 YEAR AWARD CEREMONY" to an induction in **BOB WRIGHT'S** office followed by a luncheon in the executive dining room. This will eliminate the annual company sponsored gathering for all members of the club, marking the end of an event held for nearly forty years at the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel.

Effectively, this leaves the Peacock North and Florida Retirees' social events as the only gatherings where the elite of long term broadcasters will have an opportunity to meet.

Pete has arranged to have a "**HOLIDAY'S TIME**" maxi-event on **Sunday December 13th**, at the **RAMADA INN** in **Clifton, N.J.** coinciding with 25 year induction at 30 Rock.

Most of the Tenth Annual affair meeting was camcordered by interviewer **JERRY CUDLIPP** and cameraman **JACK DOLAN**.

By Dan Grabel

Okay Pete, have you gotten a membership card in the mail to Johnny Carson -- 30 years, hey, he qualifies for PN, even if NBC has dumped the annual bash to honor new inductees while remembering the vets.

It did not take very much cogitating to decide the number one item in this issue's column should be Carson and his graceful bowing out from "Tonight. Carson, you see, is part of "our" NBC. The NBC with a heart (forget the strikes and grievances), the place where we spent the vital part of our waking hours, the place where most of us would have shown up for work even if they didn't pay us. Well, -- Almost? Carson himself expressed it in simple words most of us could repeat, words most of us said when we departed 30 Rock. And this is a direct quote: "I am one of the lucky people in the world. I found something that I always wanted to do and I have enjoyed every single minute of it."

What was his formula? Here's how Kay Gardella of the News put it: "America loved Johnny Carson because he represented the nation's taste, sensibilities and sense of humor. He was one of us. At a time when everybody was letting it all hang out, spilling out their guts, Carson continued to be a private man, reserved, polite, the essence of good manners."

Tom Shales of the Washington Post: "Carson was a once-in-a-lifetime situation, and he takes a style, a sensibility, and an era with him. He was determined not to let you get sick of him. and now he has left long before anyone had a chance to."

All agree he was a guy with old fashioned tastes who never took himself too seriously. And this Carson earned, they say \$25-million a year. One pencil pusher figured it to be \$2,380 for every minute he was on the air.

America obviously agreed. Sixty-two percent of the TV sets in use during his final performance were tuned to Carson --55 million people.

And after the final show he threw a bash at his Malibu Beach estate -- for the people who worked for him. For the big names, yessss. And for the writers and technicians who helped make him look good.

"Everything comes to an end, nothing lasts forever," said Carson. He once quipped he'd like his epitaph to read,

**" I'll be right back ! "**

((We may see more of Carson sooner than we expect. He owns the re-run rights to his shows since 1980, and NBC wisely has signed him to a deal to develop programming.))

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# No NBC 25 Year Bash ? - Come To P.N.'s Winter Festival

Dan Grabel

This December, there will not be an NBC sponsored reunion of retirees, as there has been for some 40 years because today's economies make the big Plaza Hotel event too costly a budget item for the present management. BUT FEAR NOT Peacock North is filling in the void with a Sunday, December 13th champagne brunch at our old standby, the Ramada Inn in Clifton, New Jersey.

PN has managed to cut corners, but not the value, as we keep this brunch at the same price as in years past -- just \$30. If you're asking, why not run it in Manhattan, or Long Island, we'll tell you out flat - you'd have to add \$10 to the tab, \$20 when you're bringing someone along.

The Plaza evenings were a great time to renew old acquaintances.. the only chance for many to see old colleagues, and all in one place! Those reunions will go on if Peacock North is here -- and the way to keep it here is (1) join, and pay the miniscule dues (\$20) and (2) attend our great get togethers. You'll find yourself swapping anecdotes with faces you know, with names you forgot.

And what about the new 25 year vets? Not to worry. This November 10th, in the 52nd floor executive dining room, 75 of them will get a handshake their watch, a cocktail reception and buffet.

If they really want to make it an event to remember, they'll be at the Ramada Inn! Fill out the reservation coupon in this issue..





L. end to R.:  
Jim Sunder, Florence Sunder, Heino Ripp,  
Billy Goetz, Gene Martin, Enid Roth



L. front:  
Vic Roby, Don Pardo, Dick Dudley, Bob McIntosh, Kay Pardo,  
Janet Bren, Mel Brandt, Don Blair, Ed Gough.



L. front, clockwise:  
Maureen Potrato, Rita Winocur, Mollie Sobel, Morty Aronoff  
standing, Helen DiPrima waving, Gig Harold, Carl Rohrer,  
Jack Winocur, Irv Sobel, Ray DiPrima, Al Masone.



L. front, clockwise:  
1/2 Joan Gifford, Ralph Dichter, Gloria Clyne, Ray Lockhart,  
Lois Marino, Agnes Sullivan, 1/2 Marge McGlynn



Morty Aronoff & Maureen Potrato



Jerry Cudlipp, the waiter, Johnny Andrews.



Jack Marshall, Rose deRenziz, Audrey Marshall, Alan Smiler,  
Dorothy Brodine, Win Mullen, Florence Kimmel, George Kimmel.



Rita Stipo, Dolores Parylak,



Irene Keegan, Helen & Marcel Thienpont



L. front, clockwise:  
Joe McShane, Elmer Gorry, Norm Blumenthal  
Bette MacGregory, Stewart MacGregory, Betty Rodamista, Rod Rodamista



## MORE PEOPLE cont'd fm Page 1.

[[The Previous Newsletter was published before La Maganette bash. Because I didn't get back from Barcelona till the middle of August, some of these items are a bit old, but felt we should include them, for they're really timeless.]]

shows, also director in the 50's] . He moved to California in 1972 from Old Greenwich, Conn. His 2 kids are grown.. Left Goodson Todman in '83 resolving to never do anything that he didn't want to, and has pretty well stuck-to that. (How many of us have said that??). He is still busy; produced a play with Charles Nelson Rielly , an artistic success, but financial disaster. Decided theater has become too expensive a hobby. Now is busy with a word processor editing oral histories for the Director's Guild. While working on a volume about live TV directors and AD's, did an interview with **ADRIAN LURACHI** (Hallmark Hall of Fame plus many others) who lives nearby, is well and semi-retired.. Ira sends his best to all who remember his from really early live television... **GLORIA CLYNE** cleaning out her desk, since Betty Furness was fired, but has developed a wait and see attitude. You all saw her at La Maganette She's been at NBC since 1943.... **EDDIE BAND'S** spouse **KIM** sang with her chorus at Carnegie Hall the Saturday before La Mag Bash. A show biz gal.. Ed was at the Spring Classic Golf outing... **BRYANT GUMBLE** is going around with a cast on his right hand. While **KATIE COURIC** was in Barcelona, Bryant had gone on an African safari, and encountered an unfriendly rhino.with his land rover. Bryant came out better than his partner..(more in 30 Rock).... **DICK WILLIAMS** (ex cameraman) sold his home in Staten Island and has moved to Sequim, Washington. Invites any old timers to a free dinner while they're driving on the Olympic peninsula. Phone: 683-8101... **LOUISE PAPPAS** has been quite ill and wishes to thank the NBC folks who have sent many kind notes of encouragement. All of PN wishes you a speedy recovery.... **VIC ROBY** chides PN for leaving out a couple of words out of his poem in the Poet's Corner. Thank goodness that damaged only the rythem, not the reasoning, says he.... **SHERMAN HILDRETH** (Wash. D.C.) was shown the Newsletter by Paul Kirrkamm. Would like to be a regular reader. Indicates in a note that probably there might be others not aware of P.N. So -Show someone your copy.... **BILL McCONNELL** ( Madison Sq. Garden) gifted Mr. & Mrs Richard Arlett membership to P.N. He was on Today Show, she is currently an Executive Sec. in NBC Burbank. What a great idea, a gift of PN !.... Mr. & Mrs **ARNIE DICK** enjoying Florida, then off to Italy for their 40th anniversary, a gift from their children. Nice huh ?... **BOB HANNA** settling in after their earthquake experiences, still busy with CATV and lawyering still thinking with **VINNIE DiPIETRO** about a Peacock West... **DOC POTTER** sends in a correction to last month's caption to the 1947 photo of what a TV field crew had to lug around. Left to right, he says it was Carlos Clark, Walter Mullaney, O.Tamburri, himself Doc Potter, Frank Macardle, unnamed truck driver, and Bill Waterbury. Sorry Doc, but I remembered them as I indicated, but then, you were there ! [heino].... **DORIS & CHARLIE TESSER** notes that they have been travelling and knocking around enjoying life. You seem to have found the definition of retirement. Can't ask for any more than that !.... **GENE ROWLAND** with NBC special effects more than 42 years, discovered someone's Newsletter -glommed the membership application and now he can show his copy to some unsuspecting prospective PN-er. Nice to have you with us Gene... **PHYLLIS & JERRY HOCHMAN** celebrated their 25th anniversary on March 19. Daughter Stephanie graduated from Cornell, plans to go to Med School; and son Peter completes 1st year college at S.U.N.Y.

Eventful year for you all. Congrats.... Gloria Clyne sent us a memo from Rich Cervini and Paula Walker re: **JAY MILLER**. After 37 years of dedicated service to WNBC-TV is leaving [May] to free-lance direct and teach. He has been part of hundreds of shows, directed "Live at Five" when it first went on and helped give it a distinctive look. We wish him well and thank him for the class and profession-alism he has brought to Channel 4. (couldn't have said better ourselves] Good luck Jay from all of us at PN.... **JOE MERGNER** (audio & video engineering) rightly writes indignantly: with all the hoopla about the 40th anniversary of the Today show, how about mentioning some of the people that made it all possible ? First the audio-video management, **Chester Rackey & Don Castle..** Construction super **Dave Maloney**. Construction men **Frank Connoly, Joe Mergner.. Belmont Electric** who ran pipes and cables from TVC under 49th Street to the Exhibition

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Hall.. **All the field** maintenance men who had to find and repair enough cable and audio & video equipment to make the control room work.. All the **Radio City maintenance men** who had to run miles of coax cable and adjust all the technical parameters to the satisfaction of **Tiny Carson**, the transmission chief. Also **Tony Rokosz** our former controller for the ham net. These are but a few of the ones involved in getting the Exhibition Hall on the air and keeping it on. You're right Joe, one tends to forget that there is an army of talent behind the cameras, otherwise none of these shows would reach one anniversary no less their 40th... ( Keep those letters coming guys and gals!).... **PETE CALEBRESE** out of hospitals with triple bypass, and then hip replacement. All mended now and back in action.... **DOROTHEA & BILL DeLANNOY** write Peg & Pete Peterson "It is so generous of you to work on this lovely luncheon get-together. We appreciate it very much"... **ANNE PACURA's** [early tv scheduling] husband **VIC LOMBARDO** retired July 1st with 34 years with NBC. When GE sold the radio network, Vic transferred to the E.J group. (SEE "Letters" for more of Anne's story)[It's nice to hear from you]... **GARY SMITH & DWIGHT HEMION** produced the inaugural gala for Ronald Reagan in 1985, the Democratic convention in 1988 and now the same in N.Y.C... **JOHNNY ANDREWS** sent us a card from Sweden. He does 4 concerts every 12 day "Princess" cruise. Says the Baltic is gorgeous these days and they have 24 hrs of daylight. Audiences are very responsive. Wonder is they stop off at Estonia ? Says "Talking to you-all gave me a feeling of being re-born"... more from Johnny further on in this newsletter...

### Heard at La Maganette:

Message from **MIKE SHERLOCK**: Greetings to all of you - wish I could have joined you - and given my good wishes in person... **RITA STIPO** is having a ball working for Michael. It's been a year already and we never have a dull day! Hope we can all get together next time! P.S. Rita will be celebrating her 42nd year at NBC in October, and she can truly say I've loved almost every minute... **DOLORES TAYLOR PARYLAK** couldn't wait to attend La Mag luncheon. Says it's her 1st meeting with PN. Great to see all my old friends from the old days. She worked at NBC from 1950 thru 1958 in Development Engineering as secretary to **Lew Hathaway** and **Dudley Goodale**. These two men were truly TV pioneers and developers. I remember spending several weeks in Newport, Rhode Island in a Navy helicopter with Lew setting up an airborne camera to broadcast shots of an "America Cup" race. Today it's routine. They were responsible for many of the innovative TV systems that we today take for granted, and Dolores helped them get out the info, and did all those things to keep these scientists on the right track. Your coffee wasn't bad either Dolores. Say Dolores, where is **Helen Jost** today, secretary to Doc Shelby ? ?.... **MURIEL KIRKPATRICK MacPHERSON** promised to bring some Today photos to the La Maganette luncheon, and she did and you can see some of them elsewhere in the newsletter. She's the one with the cigar. She was the TODAY weather girl years ago. Now, a mother of four, grandmother of 2, teaching freshman English and doing Real Estate.... **ALEDA ROGNONE MESRUP**, who summed up the Today Show for *bashful* **MARIE FINNEGAN**: Aleda, sec to unit mgr., later Prod Ass't with Marie, prod Asst Tonight Show, Comm'l coordinator, Director of Publicity, WPIX -then --three daughters. Now - Dean, The College for Human Services.. Months ago, Marie suggested we celebrate the 40th Anniv. along with our Bash, and we were very happy to see such big TODAY group present... **GEORGE & FRANCESCA PETERS** divide time between Pompano Beach and N.J.; on Board of Mental Health Group of N.J., and Fran elected President this term.... **MOLLIE & IRVING SOBEL** spending 6 months in Hollywood, Florida and 6 months in Monticello, the Catskill Mts. **FLORENCE KIMMEL** , recently retired, keeping busy in Rockland County in Mental Health system - did a large Public Employee Reunion - Very active in community affairs etc.. enjoyed La Maganette **reunion**.... **LUCILLE CASEY** ex TODAY Show P.A. -Currently Special Education teacher s aide (7th and 8th grade) -lives in New Jersey with husband Bill. Son married, lives in Boston, works for Fidelity Investments. Daughter lives in Group Home, works in Easter Seals workshop.... **BARBARA TROSTLE** (not sure of spelling, H.) ex TODAY Show P.A. -working for money management firm. She had a daughter who works for JANE PAULEY on Dateline ! **BILL deLANNOY & DOROTHEA** flew to San Fran in June. After Spain & Greece, they may continue seeing U S A. Says We are accomplished baby sitters, by way of three grand  
cont'd Page. 6.





L front, clockwise:  
Ginny Seipt, Cathy Vukovich, Stas Pyka,  
Gloria Settle, Norm Davidson, Helen Dolan



L front to clockwise:  
Irving Messing, Jerry Savitch, Lucille Casey,  
Don Meaney, Ruth Meaney, Dolly Messing



The TODAY Table



L. front, clockwise:  
Peg Peterson, Lois Vierling, Dorothea DeLannoy, Frank Vierling,  
Bill DeLannoy, George Peters, Francesca Peters.



Wide, across grp., to Johnny Andrews at podium, with stuff f.g.



Dolores Parylak, Jerry Cudlipp, Herb Polak

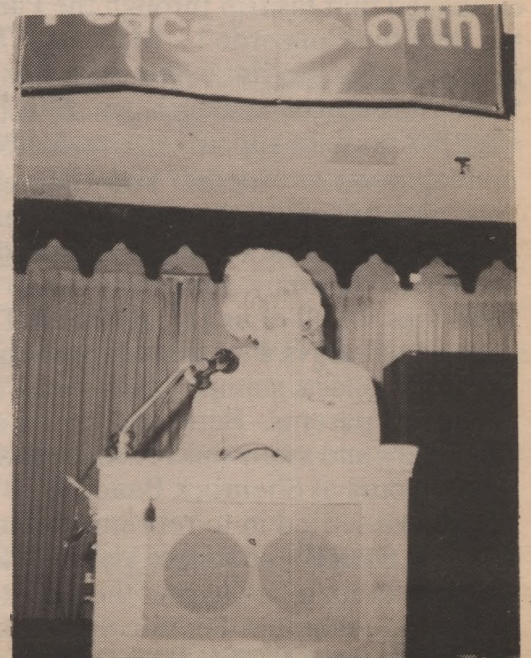


Lucille Casey  
Lily Russo ----- Marie Finnegan



L to R:  
Alida Mesrup, Marge McGlynn, Gloria Clyne, Jim Sunder,

Joan Gifford.



Alida Mesrup doing her marvelous Today Revue.  
Wish the photo exposure were better, sorry.



## MORE PEOPLE

cont'd from Pge.

children --better than having small children of our own.... Also at La Mag, muses **DICK DUDLEY** (see new quiz in this issue) - : "As I sit here with all my old friends, I am waiting for the arrival of a new grandson who may arrive before dessert." It's Sept now and we are still awaiting anxiously for the news... **MEL BRANDT** -"As I sit here with all my old friends, I realize we had the best part of it!"... **DON BLAIR** All properties we were part of (?) in the northeast are now sold. Our Venice, Florida home is rising. We'll be there in October. Already member of Peacock South... **ED GOUGH** -And now the news --

- my fourth and final son is getting married next Saturday (June) --hell, how can that be ? To my mind, he's still that cuddly kid with a gap between his teeth - -time does go on --- (was his son David Letterman??)... **VIC ROBY** pens - "It's always good to visit with old NBC friends ---especially when I discover that there are a few who are even older than I am ! !.... **DON PARDO** "It's pouring cats and dogs, but Kay (Mrs D.P.) and I are enjoying ourselves as usual. Of course if and when I retire, I'll have places to go. A daughter in Dallas, another daughter in Tuscon, -(who, I'm proud as a peacock to say) is a PH.D, teaching at Univ. of Arizona, a son in Honolulu, Hawaii; another son in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. and another (hooray) in Hackensack, N.J.. To conclude, our Peacock North members here today. all look super. (Hey Don, retire, you might like it. !)...

**IRV MESSING** notes the annual NBC Golf Tournament at High Mountain, N.J. honcho'd by **STEVE SKROUPKA**, **BOBBY BROWN** & **JOHN THOMAS** teed off at 9:30am -Included were breakfast, Bar B Q lunch at 10th tee with drinks, steak dinner plus prizes. These "Old timers" hacked their way around the course, and some even played golf. **PHIL HYMES**, **FRANK GAETA**, **ERNIE DeROSA**, **GENE MARTIN**, **JOHN OLEZEWSKI**, (never could spell that) -**RUDY FOGLIA**, yes, **CHARLIE SAVAIA** and **HERB OXMAN**... **JERRY SAVITCH** says it's great to see old friends again and talk about the good old days. (That's what PN is about Jerry). Am looking forward to getting together with my Florida friends in Peacock South...

**MILLIE & MORTY ARONOFF** have a 10 month grandson, Joshua in Briarcliff Manor, 1 1/4 hrs fm their Brooklyn home. Lots better than twin granddaughters Rosia and Morgen far away in Denver. They're not travelling, but are making plans. His prostate cancer still is in remission with the Bahama Clinic treatment - He goes for two weeks, twice a year for a "tune-up"...

**MAUREEN POTRATO**: Still working for the Police Depts Health Services. I still love the job. It reminds me of the friendship & sense of family that was NBC. I have some bad news, **CAROLYN STUVE**, the former Head Nurse passed away in January. She is survived by her daughter Carolyn and 5 grand children. Cayolyn Stuve was the Head Nurse when I started at NBC. She was a gracious caring woman and I'll miss her.... **DENISE ROBINSON** : Each year the luncheon gets bigger and better, and this year it was even better because Maureen Potrato and I once shared "space" with "Morty" Aronoff. -At least this time he's not taking our bedroom space as he and Hank Heustis did at the Health Office....

**GIGI HAROLD** : Still working at NBC -a lot different these days. Now in the Olympic Dept. Wouldn't mind getting to Barcelona. It's great to see everyone again... **CARL ROHRER** Have to use up three U.S. Air coupons by mid Sept. So Watch out ! I might be dropping by. -Since it's Sept, we want a report, How did Carl use up those coupons ??... **JIM & FLORENCE SUNDER** exclaimed that his trip through the Panama Canal was more fun than the Concorde !... **BILL GOETZ** working three days a week taping the "Jane Show" for Fox on Channel 5, on at 5 pm. (missed you in Barcelona, Billy.[H.] **ENID ROTH**, after her podium appearance, and volume in PN, now has nothing more to add, for "You know everything".

**JOHNNY ANDREWS** wrote in our year book - My first visit and I hope the first of many. Thank you all for the memories. (Johnny, your show began quite a long list of memories for all of us.)... **STEWART MacGREGORY** : My grandson Craig is a swimmer, diver and gymnast. Grandson Brendan collects stamps, plays soccer and generally annoys his parents. Bette and I work over at church as volunteers and enjoy our retired work and spend the leisure hours at Shenrock Beach Club in Rye. (Sounds like you've settled in to retirement, Stu) ....

**ELMER GORRY** confides: My bride Helen and I have 16 grandchildren, no twins and the oldest is 14 years old. My favorite month is September. No Birthdays !....

**NORM BLUMENTHAL** (recently Exec Producer American Movie Classics (Cable), 14 1/2 yrs produc'r Concentration): Just finished my latest book. (published next spring).

## Pge 6

Miss all those wonderful ex-NBC co-workers. Why don't we start our own network ?? See Norm's article elsewhere in this issue.... **THIS PERSON didn't leave a name**, but relates recuperating from a recent AICD (Defibrillator) implant and hopefully expect to get active again with my partners in Omnisphere Productions. We hope to be in production with a made-for-TV movie in January 1993. Wish us luck! PN wishes we knew to whom to give best wishes..

**JACK KEEGAN** spent one month touring Ireland last Aug & Sept. They rented a car, which took a little bit to get used to driving on the other side of the road, but survived. They visited many of the great historic sites, and managed to look up some of the ancestors. Really enjoyed the trip and his brogue is a lot heavier today...

**MARY & HENRY POLAK** planning to visit Ameriflor '92 in Columbus, Ohio (Maureen Teller's favorite city), after which they plan to attend the WW II PT Boat Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. ( I hear a lot of PN-ers have signed up for those trips)... **HELEN and RAY DiPRIMA** are happy to be with friends in NY again. We left Fla early this year to be home in time for the re-marriage of their daughter. June was filled with graduation parties, reunions of grad and sorority etc. Also a few mini vacations thrown in.... **NORM DAVIDSON** has been back at painting scenery -the latest I worked on, the new Michael Fox picture Concierge. Also I've been taking it easy. I was told that's what we do now....

**GINNY SEIPT** thinks you all are already updated on her. In case you're not - She is still freelancing for "TODAY" -and for anyone else that asks ! ( my computer said I spelled freelancing wrong, it suggested "freeloading". What does it know that we don't?, Boy ! these danged machines want to take over everything!) (Next it questioned "danged").. The rent is paid on the apartment -this month. Also is trying to sell her 3 bedroom house in Fairfield, Conn. (2 1/2 acres -580 ft. of stream front). Any takers ? "It's fun having my sister Barbara (Seipt) in the building working as a Production Manager on Barcelona. Can you believe -two of us there ! ! ??" ....

**JACK MARSHALL** is studying Chinese for a PHD !.... **AUDREY MARSHALL** has been playing her black piano (which she covered with ivory colored contact paper). Audrey's neighbors complimented her playing but said they were moving down the hall and couldn't hear her - so Audrey said, "I shall play louder!" .. **ROSE DeRENZIS** is enjoying working with Operation Sail "92", Christopher Columbus Quincentennial ! Looking forward to seeing all the international ships. Also went to Barcelona in July.... **WES SOMRVILLE** wishes lots of luck to his many friends at NBC. Are both retired and active. He's still trying to write interesting stories and letters....

**DOROTHY BRODINE** is keeping busy. She visited Spain & Portugal earlier this year - active in church work, enjoying bird walk with Audobon Society -working on fiction and screen play. Gives her regards to all....

**WIN MULLEN**, dog fancier, is down to only seven "Pugs" now - Still enjoying their company.... **RAY LOCKHART** spends time combing the beach in North Topsail Island, N.C., with occasional trips to N.Y.C. to "look for work".

**ANN TEAHAN**, of "Juvenile Jury", "Leave it Ti The Girls" and "The Camel News Caravan" fame, manages the manor and frolics in the surf. Happy beach combing Ray thanks for the disk.... **LOIS MARINO** -recently promoted to V.P. Project Development & planning at Madison Square Garden from Finance, Special Projects. And for a change, managing finances at the Garden for the Democratic Convention in July. [Who said you'd never do another convention ?? Life is like a wheel, it keeps coming around again. Hope you enjoyed the past conventions as much as I did... **AGNES R. SULLIVAN** says simply but

succinctly, "Retired, and enjoying it." Keep it ever thus.... **JOAN GIFFORD** enjoying her life in the Financial World...-Love these get-togethers, seeing my dear friends from NBC.... **MARGE McGLYNN**: After an enjoyable trip to the Florida get-together, a few days at Disney World and then to DelRay Beach for a week, returned to NY for Federal Jury Duty, am now looking forward to three weeks in Virginia.... **RALPH DICHTER** -6 months in Florida - 6 months is N.Y. -(Moriches) - A hard life !!! Practically don't miss a day on the tennis courts. Only reason we come back up North, (don't miss the big city) is three beautiful granddaughters.... **ROBERT McINTOSH**: Other than one month in Florida (West coast) each year, my time is spent in Armonk, N.Y. and Conn. with family. Have made my 7 years retirement very productive and enjoyable in enriching my home. Became an avid gardener (tomatoes anyone?), (Yes Mr. Quayle, -es makes it plural) landscape

cont'd Pge. **11.**



by Dan Grabel

The summer political conventions had an odd look -- NBC correspondents showing up on PBS along with Robert MacNeil (remember when we called him Robin at NBC, then Robert?) and Jim Lehrer from 8 to 10 and then switching to NBC when it's coverage began. Strange bedfellows and an innovation that could not have possibly happened in 1988 or in the previous four decades, but now rationalized for financial expediency by a new breed of management at the helm. Speaking for PBS, producer Lee Crystal (another NBC alumnus) said, "If we had to do it by ourselves, we couldn't afford it."

The first political convention to be telecast was the GOP in 1940 in Philadelphia by NBC with then, experimental on W2XBS. In that decade Philadelphia was a favored city for conventions. I worked both the Dems and the GOP there (for WPIX) in 1948.

NABET's news crews who go out in vans covering the news have filed a grievance because WNBC is pasting station logos on the vehicles. The crews feel they will be targets for abuse and attacks while covering some stories. They claim WABC trucks, with similar identification, have been attacked a dozen times by brick-tossers and one gunman. WNBC general manager, Bill Bolster (ex-KSDK, St. Louis), wants more "station visibility" on the streets.

WNBC has imported west-coaster Bruno Cohen (ex-KPIX, San Francisco) as news director. A month before his August arrival Cohen sent out a memo stating "routinely scheduled overtime will be eliminated." And the company will no longer pick up late shift commuting expenses. And, this too, from up on Mt. Sinai, "There will be changes in the way we gather, produce, and present our news." One of Cohen's plans should add more work, if not more jobs to the operation. He will add two hours of local news to both the Saturday and Sunday morning lineups. First to depart the local station was managing editor Mike Callaghan, who had been on the job for seven years. In the musical chairs dept: Bret Marcus, the former news director, was shunted to a news development post (that's always a nice, obscure designation) after a reasonably long tenure as news director. Bret's interim successor was Paula Walker, who will remain on board as assistant news director. Sounds unusual. As we recall it, the tenure of most news directors 'round the nation used to be about two years. Cohen's reign at KPIX lasted 5 years. As for Ms. Walker, the quote we liked most from her in a NYPost interview: (paraphrase to Bolster) "If I'm not made news director at the next opportunity, I surely will be out of here!" Sounds more like Hollywood than 30 Rock in this era.

Our favorite Bolster quote from another NYPost interview, "I think that what is going to happen here is going to be good for the audience. "The Post's headline for that interview was "He's a real morale builder."

Here's a story they couldn't pass up for Page Six of the Post. One Peter Leone, who was new at the job of acting managing editor at News Center Four, was scrounging the office for furniture and stuff to dress up his new office. Feeling his oats, he cased Gloria Clyne's office and walked off with a potted plant. When Gloria, no shrinking violet, discovered the gambit, she walked into Leone's office and repossessed it. Good girl, Gloria! But no harassing the males, please.

NBC's own "Batman and Robin," are still on the job after lo these many moons --but not together anymore. Remember correspondent Brian Ross and producer Ira Silverman, who have worked as a pair for 16 years? Ross is working on "Dateline NBC," while Silverman is working on weekend "Nightly "

John (we called him Jack in the old Chicago days), Chancellor will be joining the NBC retirement group in 1993. He plans to continue lecturing, writing books and working on television projects. That last choice often does not come to fruition, as Walter Cronkite will tell you. Jack started with NBC in Chicago, served in Europe as a correspondent, principally London and Moscow, as I recall it, hosted "Today" with Ed Newman, and "Nightly," and of course all the political conventions--including the time he was arrested on the floor of the convention in Chicago. During one short hiatus from NBC he was Director of the Voice of America. Chancellor is 64.

Another oldie--Ron Nessen, once of NBC Washington, and the press secretary to President Jerry Ford -- has resigned as vice president of news for Westwood One, a job he held for eight years. The announcement also said Ron's job had been eliminated and he would not be replaced. Now, which came first?

"Meet the Press", the 45-year old grand-daddy of Washington personality shows, was expanded from half an hour to one hour. The extra half hour was snipped from Sunday Today. Two newspeople new to NBC have replaced Garrick Utley and Mary Alice Williams as anchors of the weekend Today shows -- Scott Simon from National Public Radio, and (Ms) Jackie Nespral from Univision, a Spanish-speaking network. It is said she has limited reporting experience, including a year and a half at Univision, and has never anchored an English-language broadcast. She's a former beauty queen. Hey, that's not a bad credential. And it doesn't sound like Simon has much faith in the project. He's taken a one year leave-of-absence from his NPR radio job where he spent 15 years.

Betty Dukert, who has worked for "Meet the Press" for 40 of the shows 45 years, has been promoted to senior producer. She replaced Christie Basham, who retired August first.

Mary Alice by the way, who developed as a TV personality at WNBC before becoming a VP at CNN, has gone on maternity leave! True or not, there was a story about 20 years ago that some news exec thought her piercing icy blue eyes were overpowering the audience and suggested she get colored contact lenses to town down those orbs!

Reporter/anchor, Tony Guida, has bounced around from NBC to CBS and now he's back at CBS as a reporter. One TV columnist says NBC wanted to cut Tony's \$500,000 a year salary in half. Hey, who wouldn't object! It's said he took a slight pay cut anyway, but he's still working. Are you? Also at CBS as GM, Bud Carey, who once held that title at NBC. Which Field will you watch for your weather on WCBS? At the time we wrote this, Storm Field was due to check in to replace Irv Gikofsky (didn't he have a long run!) while daddy Frank was also on the WCBS roster. And what does a half-million dollar a year weather man like Storm Field do when ABC bounces you? There aren't too many jobs with that stipend. Apparently Storm was trying a Hollywood acting career while waiting to return to the tube. Weather-casting is a safer occupation. You can be wrong every other day and still retain the job!

Well, this is a 30 Rock item, once removed. Morning radio man Don Imus, who used to be on WNBC before it became WFAN, has signed a new contract for a reported 3-million bucks a year! And for 5 years, yet!!! So radio is not quite dead.

What happens to old Johnny Carson "Tonight" show producers? If you're Peter Lassally, you return to 30 Rock to become executive producer of David Letterman's show. Lassally, who spent 22 years with Carson, started as an NBC page in 1951.

Andy Friendly, a WNBC news alumnus, has added a new title to the vice president stripe he has at CNBC. He's also network executive producer, coordinating programming and development.

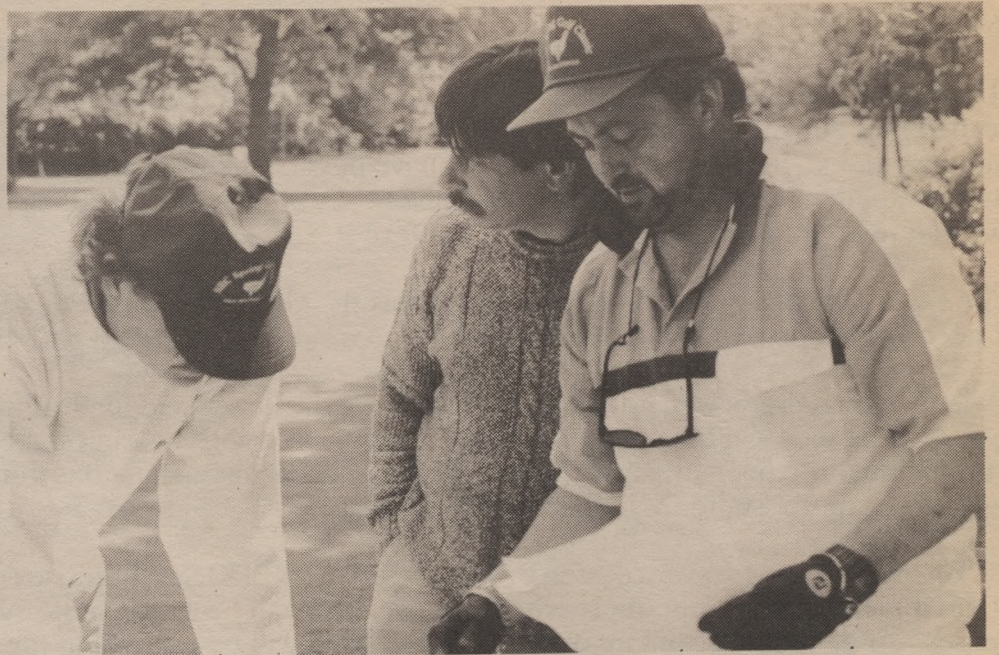
How much time does NBC and the other nets devote to commercials? Nine minutes, twelve seconds per hour. And does it seem that CNN gives 'em more time? It does -- thirteen minutes, twenty-two seconds per hour.

**cont'd Page 9.**





Herb Messing & Irving Messing



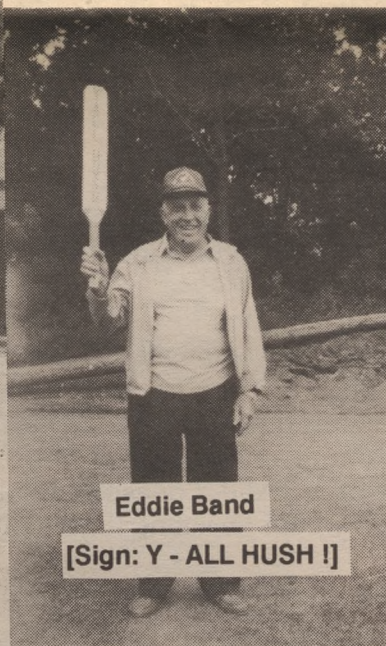
Steve Skorupka, Bill Kanakaris, Bobby Brown



Phil Hymes, Gene Martin, Ernie deRosa, Frank Gaeta



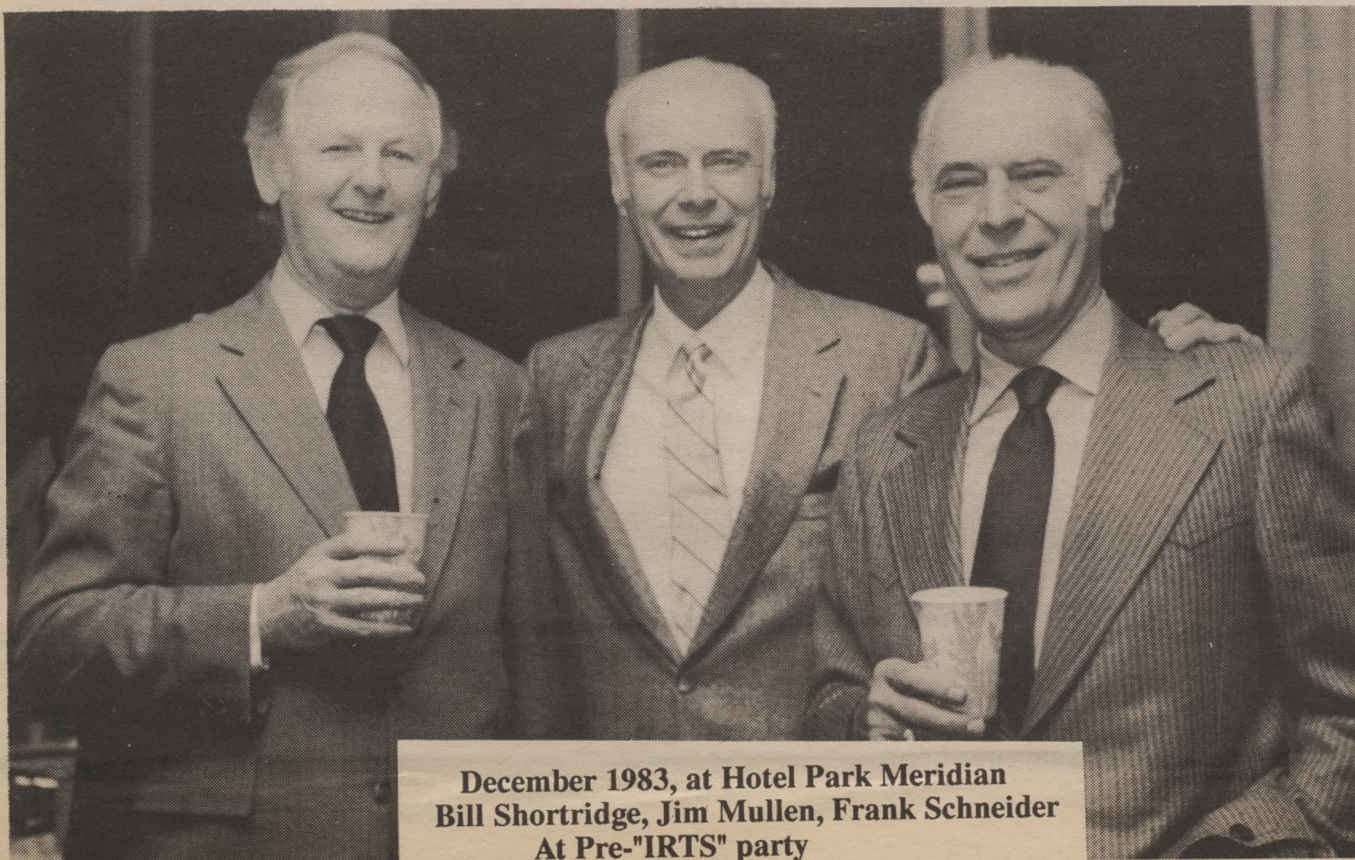
Herb Oxman, Rudy Foglia, Charley Savaia, John Oleszewski



Eddie Band  
[Sign: Y - ALL HUSH !]



Phil Liebowitz, Jack Caferty (ex host Live at 5)



December 1983, at Hotel Park Meridian  
Bill Shortridge, Jim Mullen, Frank Schneider  
At Pre-"IRTS" party

John Thomsa (EJ editor) brother Brian, Steve Skorupka and Brownie ran a delightful golf outing at High Mt Country club. PN'ers had a good turnout, the fotos attest to fun you'all had... Johnny O. won 1st place, Herb Oxman 2nd. 3rd was taken by last years "put" champ, Frank Gaeta. 4th went to Ernie deRosa. Guests, retirees and NBC players had lots of prizes available for as many categories. Closest to the pin #5 & #9. The straight-est drive on hole #10. for ex. Retirees Eddie Band & John Russo acted as unofficial referees. Brownie said NBC's ex anchor man Jack Cafferty, won the 1st place guest spot, commending him for his support by coming to the events and always playing in top form. Bob Brown won the A flight with a 78.... My Having to cut 3 pgs out, leaves out many details from Bobby's article. Thanks for inviting us old guys.. See you next year.



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And with the retirement of Johnny Carson, another bookkeeper came up with these stats on the stars who did the most frequent quest shots on "Tonight": Joan Rivers and David Steinberg (105 appearances), Tony Randall (104), Charles Nelson Reilly (97), Joyce Brothers (90), Steve Lawrence and Edye Gorme (86), Buddy Hackett (78), and Don Rickles (75).

Actor Robert Stack is due some kind of honor for longevity. Remember his Eliot Ness and the G-Men series back in the days of black and white TV? Stack's back on NBC this Fall with "Unsolved Mysteries". And if you belong to Peacock North you don't ask, "What's black and white TV and who was Walter Winchell?"

Used to be "Join the Navy and see the world". Now it's "Join the "Today" show and see the world". Bryant Gumbel and a lucky cadre (?) will visit Zimbabwe in November! That's in Africa, son. Now there's a place all America has wanted to visit. Gumbel, in fact, gets to go twice. Once during the Olympics, when he taped some pieces. Undated, ever-greens, you might say.

According to the Times (and I question the facts) Gumbel broke his wrist while pursuing a hippopotamus in Kenya's Masai Mara land. His Land Rover hurtled into a ditch -- and says NBC -- had the wrist taped and continued on.

I travelled through the Masai Mara last year, and it is about as out-back as you can get. Even the nearest witch doctor is two days away! And you don't "pursue" hippos, ((about twice the size of the vehicle)) who are usually found wading in shallow rivers, or mud flats -- certainly no place for any vehicle. And those hippos ain't no pussy cats. You observe them from afar. Of course, "pursuing" sounds more heroic if you're an anchor man. And do you recall the last time you fractured a limb? Just tape it up? Hmmm. Maybe, possibly it was a sprain, Bryant? Perhaps we'll see it all on the show tape. And can just imagine the promos?

At "Nightly News", it is said there was an early summer purge with "significant personnel changes". A handful of producers were given new posts on "Nightly", or shunted off to new posts. The objective: to make the news show newsier. Exec Producer Steve Friedman (Mister Humility) says they'll now have fewer "viewer-friendly" (soft) features. Why is a soft story more viewer-friendly than a hard story? Gosh, isn't that an over-worked cliché --viewer friendly, user-friendly, blah-blah-blah friendly. As I see it, if you're an average Joe (or Jane) most computers/word processors are user-friendly and most do-it-yourself assembly instructions are user-friendly. And some copywriter and marketing types created the phrase "friendly" to help sell the stuff most of us don't need and can't work without intensive instruction.

The final comment: News prexy Michael Gartner, talking about the revamped "Nightly" (now in third place), said, "The first two pieces on the show will always be news". Hmmm, what about the rest of the half hour?

A network idea that came and went rather quickly this summer was created at CBS, and reportedly was going to be copied by NBC and somebody at TV Guide spent a lot of time cataloging the targets of jokes on Johnny Carson and David Letterman the first quarter of this year. George Bush lead -- the butt 120 times. Bill Clinton followed with 93, and Dan Quayle checked in with a mere 33 taunts.

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A network idea that came and went rather quickly this summer was created at CBS, and reportedly was going to be copied by NBC and ABC. CBS announced it would charge affiliates who carried some of the network programs. At the same time, CBS would still compensate the affils who carry net offerings. In effect, the charge would mean money would flow in both directions --a dramatic innovation, since it has always flowed one way (to the affils) since the 1920s. CBS chairman Larry (we use the familiar) Tisch quickly learned that a threatened palace revolt could cause serious damage and came up with an alternative squeeze on the affils.

**cont'd Page 11.**

**JOIN PEACOCK NORTH  
For Application  
See Back Page**

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



# A Peek into N B C Florida Retirees Spring Get-Together

Pge 10.



Joe Maietta, Sid Chomsky, Freda - Bill Miller



Walter Vetter, Pres. NBCFR, Hank Folkerts, Hamnet controller



Ronnie Mofsen, Warren Zito



Lee Noble  
doing his magic



Ronnie and Harold Mofsen



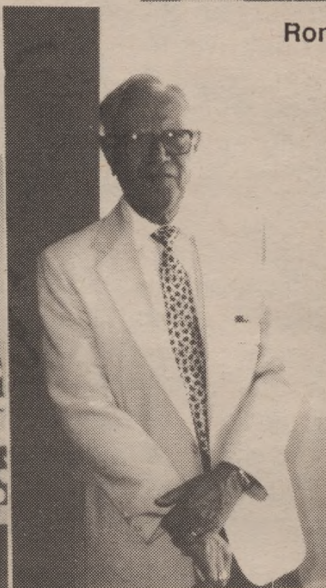
Bill Miller, Joe Kolb, Wally Lawton



Ronnie Adams, Ros & Blanche Bigelow, Harry & Berta Katzman



The NBCFR Group,



Walter Werner,  
[ ex Navy Pilot  
& color video ]



Mrs. Mitchell, Mollie Sobel, Irv Sobel, Ron Mitchell



## MORE 30 ROCK

Another president's son is trying to make it big on the tube. This time its **Steven Ford**, Jerry's son, who will host an NBC series titled "Secret Service"..... And for modern day "moxie", (definitely not a modern descriptive term), how's this: Reporter **Faith Daniels**, hosting a half hour NBC talk show she feels is too brief, urged her audience to telephone John Miller, chief of daytime programming, top expand it !

####

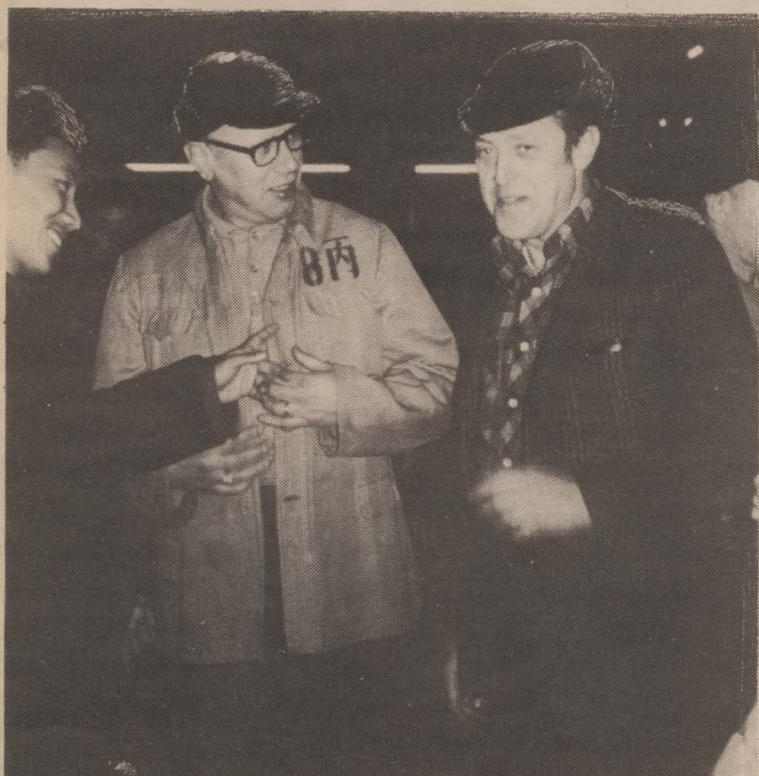
cont'd Page 12.



-----, Walt Werner, Bill & Floss Little, Sophie Werner



Dom Salviola & Lee Noble f.g to group



At Nixon Visit to China:  
Leon Dobbin (right) telling Walt Werner  
he looks like a prisoner in his Mao outfit.

## MORE PEOPLE cont'd fm Page 6.

artist, manicurist (not nails).. Look forward to PN functions to keep in touch with uncountable friends and cohorts of NBC. I do miss the annual Shop Steward bash.. Was nice to see **RUTH & DON MEANEY** attending La Maganette luncheon. My two shi-tzu doggies tore apart the yellow paper with most of Don's comments from La Mag, but if I pieced it together OK, he indicated that Julian (Goodman) still with Gannett, thus still in News. The rest was all chewed up. I'll have to feed those guys more often; but they did seem to have enjoyed the paper ! Gee, might try that.

####

The **NBC HAM RADIO NET** is still going strong. **HANK FOLKERTS** AND **JOE KOLB** are the controllers and are doing a great job of keeping it going. I've been on a bit and **ANDY ANDERSON**, **BILL MILLER**, **BOB JUNCOSA** (fm Calif) **ED WACKERNAGLE**, also fm Calif., **RICK BERMAN** now has his license and enjoys him new found hobby, **JIM KNEELAND**, **KEN ARBER**, **JOHN WARD**, Bungee jumper **JOHN RICE**, **BOB HIGGINS**, **HAROLD MOFSEN**, **JOHN LOUGH**, **FRED WAGNER** AND **TOM LYMAN** are on quite frequently.

Ham, **ROY NEAL**, **W6DUE**, ex NBC Space, Science Newsmen had a nice article about him in the **AARL UPDATE**, amateur radio newsletter, Stephen Mendelsohn, Director. The Amateur Radio League tries to bring amateur radio to children. The Shuttle mission STS-45 carried five astronauts that were hams. Thousands of students from the U.S. and Canadian Schools and youth groups in eight foreign countries participated in voice contacts with the astronauts aboard. Roy then was part of a team that blitzed the media, CBS, ABC, NBC TV &, radio, USA TODAY, Newsday, 7 major Newspapers and more, with a massive campaign to publicize these events. Congrats to all of you. I've heard Roy on the air, but not on the NBC daily "Ham Net".... Speaking of NBC Ham Net, Hank Folkerts mentioned that **O. TAMBOURRI** and **JIM BLANEY** had indicated interest in getting their license. Good luck to both of you, hope both you make it, we could use another Calif. station; for many times currently the East coast fellows can't talk to everyone, (due to propagation quirks,) and could act as a controller. So hurry it up Tambo & Blane! **RUTH STONE**, noted that she couldn't attend Picco luncheon cause she don't drive (guess we'll have to remedy that some day). Also let us know that **ALEIDA ARTZE** retired on August 28 after 28 years at NBC, must be her lucky number! On September 4th, **PAT DONEGAN**, after 38 years. **Ruthe** announces that on October 30th, after 28 years, she'll be checking out, retiring, going to vamoose.. Says they're all as happy as can be ! ! .... The **RCA Retiree and Ex-RCA Luncheon Group** just passed their, yes, 16th Birthday! From a group of three who met in the Harrison Cafeteria in 1976, they have grown to 1600 members. Congratulations folks. Tells you something about people wanting to keep in touch ... **JOHN SCUOPPO** (former V.P. NBC Entertainment) missed La Maganette, but cruised the Caribbean instead. Three weeks later spouse and he flew off to Austria and Italy welcoming Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Florence, Siena, Assisi, and Rome..And Now, Back to New York!.. John was seen at work at J.Crew, wearing a tie with the famous NBC "N" on it. (the same "N" that the station in Nebraska said was their logo) A lady, Ellen Hergen, saw the tie and said "Gee, my dad used to work at NBC" So did I John responded. Suddenly it hit him that Jim Hergen was the former VP of Sales, Special Programs at NBC with whom he had the pleasure of working. Ellen was told about PN, and John thought that her dad would like to become a member. He suggested a gift membership. Well, **JIM HERGEN** is now a PN member, and we welcome him and the rest of the **NEW MEMBERS**.. **Please turn to Page 22.**

for Late People **POTPOURRI**



We are indebted to PN retired newsman Roy Silver for the usual several pounds of news clips which provided us with the grist for this column. Including this tid-bit that "Today", was not the first early morning TV show. Ernie Kovacs did a 7-to-9 AM show in Philadelphia in 1950 called "Get Ready". However, it wasn't network so "Today" certainly gets to the record books.

Here's one economy move by NBC which we can understand. Seems the company has had one of those sky boxes at Madison Square Garden -- those lush pads higher and more remote than the cheap blue seats -- to entertain sponsors and such, and decided it was time to get rid of the frill which costs a whopping \$660,000 a year! MSG wouldn't let NBC out of the contract. Then MSG decided they needed coach Pat Riley, who was under contract as an NBC broadcaster. With both sides in a bind, they swapped Riley's release from NBC for NBC's release from the sky box! (Not a new story, but one we had overlooked to include earlier).

Job turnover at NBC this year has included the departure of reporters **Connie Collins**, **Ellen Fleysher** and producer **Bob Kusbit**, and probably quite a few more we have not heard about.

From foreign and Washington correspondent **Ray Scherer** has written a book about television with **Robert J. Donovan**, formerly of the L.A. Times. The Tittle -- "Unsilent Revolution: Television News and American Public Life, 1948 - 1991."

Among the (not so recent) retirees from the NBC Newsroom: **Ginger Marin** and **Tony Feedback** (not young enuf to retire, so well call them departees), and **Marv Lorber**, **Van Kardish**, and **Peter Ochs**, who certainly are retirees.

Our last visit to 30 Rock, oh at least 6 months ago, among those veteran newsmen still toiling behind their word processors: **Doug Davenport**, **Don Snyder**, **Bernie (BS) Brown**, **Ed Bowers**, **Chris Brown**, **Sy Perlman** and **Bert Melody**. Probably, there are more, but we did not see them. The only one who will never leave is **Prometheus** out there in the skating rink

**LATE Notes** on some former 30 Rockers: **Deborah Norville** making it back to the tube to join CBS News magazine show, "Street Stories" which starts in October, as a reporter. Ed Bradley is host. She'll ankle her radio talk show.... **Tom Snyder**, who has been hosting an ABC talk show, has been dropped because of low ratings. Norville and Snyder's departures left a six hour gap in the network programming. Also axed were many behind the mike personnel... Remember **Katie Kelly**, onetime WNBC entertainment critic? She of frizzy hair and large spectacles. Katie who had visited Vietnam on a holiday in 1988, later decided to go there to teach Amerasian kids. She quit her broadcasting assignment to work in Vietnam for a year and now has written a book on her experiences titled "A Year in Saigon". She is now doing volunteer work at St. Rita's Asian Center in the Bronx. She told Newsday reporter Jessie Mangaliman that at age 53, and financially and emotionally secure, it was time she placed less emphasis on money and material things in her life. "What else did I have to prove to myself? - nothing." And the Saigon experience? "Terrific!".... Now back to the ranch: **Margret Larson**, the "Today" News anchor recently gave birth to a son... **Peter Leone**, former Vice president and GM of WOR-TV, has joined ENBC as managing editor of its newscasts. He had been acting as M.E.... **Stan Hopkins** former news director of Bostons WBZ, is overseeing the expanded weekend early morning show on Channel Four...

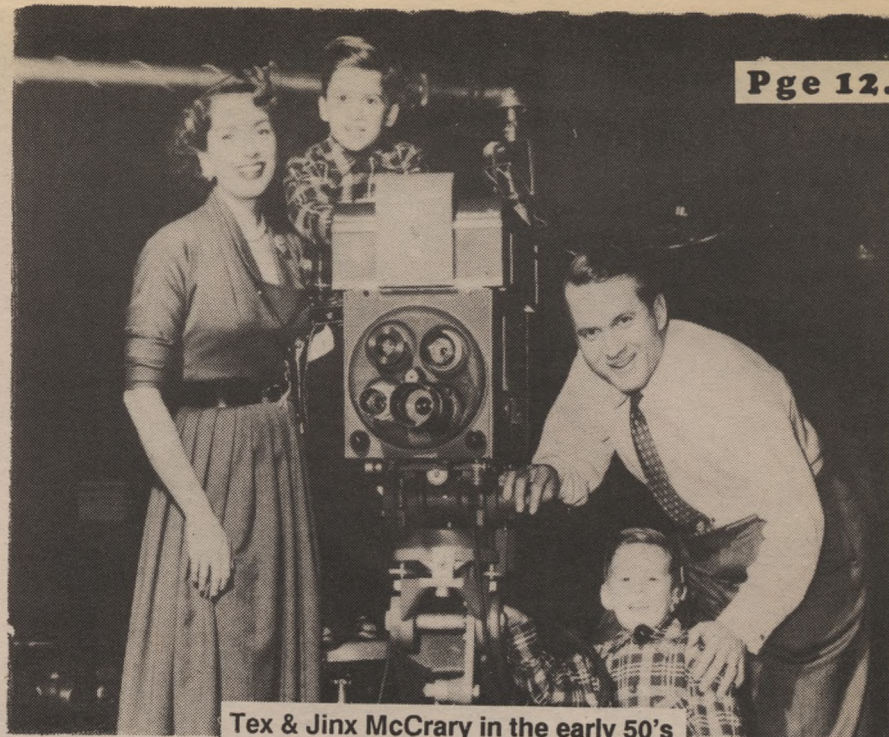
In August, after battling with words in TV news columns, NBC fires correspondent **Arthur Kent**, saying he was guilty of "repeated breaches of his contract." NBC said Kent had refused to an assignment covering a UN inspection team in wartorn Zagreb, which the network described as "stable". A network spokeswoman said Kent rejected the assignment "for safety reasons". [[ On the day NBC suspended Kent, ABC producer David Kaplan was killed in Sarajevo ]] NBC also said it "never orders employees to cover a war or other dangerous situation."...

#### N B C HAMNET

20 Meter Net new frequency is 14.223

W2NL (Joe Kolb) and K4KO (Hank Folkerts) are net controls..Meet 9:45am Eastern Time

Pge 12.



Tex & Jinx McCrary in the early 50's with his camera crew!



August 1966 - Aboard carrier U.S.S. Guam for G.T. # 11 recovery  
Aaron Stephenson, Stod Dentz, Don Pike kneeling - Ed Proctor, Fred Favant



Jim & Florence Sunder going thru the Panama Canal



Standing, Leon Dobin laughingly checks out his chopsticks, while Peter Groom (to R.) contemplates this serious business.



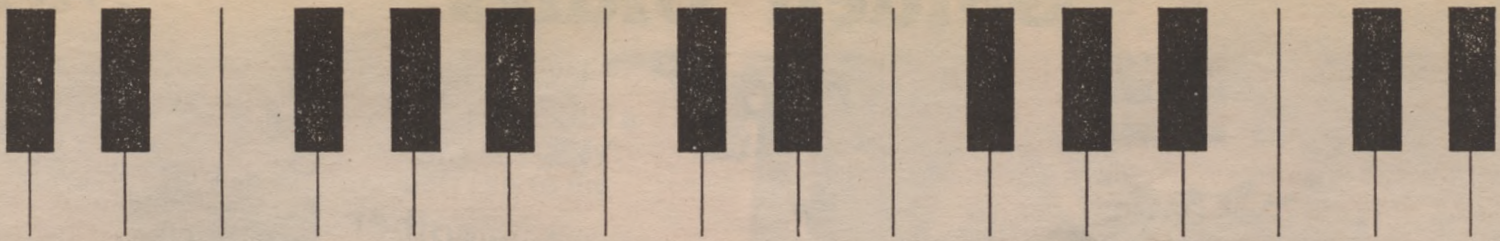


Muriel MacPherson (gorgeous body at L.) watching Dave do her "Weather Girl" job on TODAY remote at Sea Isle, Fl. The lady at R. is a model. (a friend of the producer, no doubt.



L. to R: Standing: Fellow peeking in, Richard Pinkham, Tom Naud, Buddy Nenella, chimp owner, Mort Werner. Seated: Muriel MacPherson, Frank Blair, Chimps, Jack Lescoulie.





## "Thoughts While Sailing The Baltic"

NBC'S "EASY DOES IT" PRESENTS:

**JOHNNY ANDREWS !**

Remember me?... Sunday, May 31, was a magical day for me. Weather not-withstanding, oh, the memories that came to life.

Reliving that fateful day on 106th Street, when **Stu McGregory's** spanking new, shiny ashcans received their Baptism, with the bigger part of a ton of mementoes, from **Ivan Sanderson's** performing elephants. Stu was not amused...

It was such a pleasure to see all the marvelous announcers that I worked with, forty years ago. How well they've weathered,...  
**Don, Vic, Mel, et. al.** They still treat the spoken word with such grace and dignity...

The old days were great days. Trite, but true, they really were..Shaking hands with colleagues and peers on Sunday, We blessed the memorable incidents, and bemoaned the changes. and..such changes!!!!...

We had no way of knowing that Television would go on to alter the ways of the world, and it's inhabitants forever...

While having lunch with **Heino Ripp, Jim Sunder, Jerry Cudlipp** and **Pete Peterson**, somebody asked me what I had been doing since the old "EASY DOES IT" days... Then Pete said, "wait a minute. Instead of telling us , would you write it down, for a future Peacock North publication?" "Happy to." said I.....

So, for what it's worth, it's confession time. I am from Boston...went to Dorchester High School, along with another NBC stalwart..  
**Ed Herlihy.**

Then... New England Conservatory of Music...A fellow student at the time was **Leonard Bernstein.** We, musical aspirers, in order to earn our tuition, played piano in beer joints, cafes, bars and dance halls. We all received the princely sum of three dollars a night. It was the height of the depression. 1938....It did bother a number of us young prodigies that **Lenny** could always command four dollars for the very same duties.... I guess Lenny was one of a kind...

Soon, things started to happen...It was the Big Band Era, and the music world began to open it's doors. I played piano with **Johnny Long's Orchestra**, and **Rudy Vallee's Orchestra**...and, at different times, was piano accompanist for **Buddy Clark** (the all-time greatest), **Dick Powell** (What a gentleman) and **Helen Morgan** (a first magnitude star).. **THEN PEARL HARBOR HAPPENED!**

I was doing some rather unimpressive radio work, when I saw the full page ad in the New York Times.. WIN YOUR SILVER WINGS AS A PILOT AND OFFICER IN THE U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS, AND SERVE YOUR COUNTRY. Talk about abrupt career changes! ! ! ! !

Four years later, the B-24 Bomber Pilot taxied back to the flight line for the last time. It had been a great flying career. I will always cherish these "WILD BLUE YONDER" years.....but now, back to the real world.

My new life started with WNEW...And then my real life began. I was asked to audition for a new, daily, family-oriented TV show. There were about eight of the best crop of singers and masters of ceremonies, all gathered in a studio and, one by one, each paraded his wares for the producers in the darkened control room.

I thought they were all excellent. (I remember that **Johnny Desmond, Bob Haymes, Phil Brito**, among others, auditioned). I was scheduled to go on last, for no particular reason. But, I did enjoy observing the others. Then, the intercom voice said it was **Phil Hanna's** turn. Phil was a bit embarrassed and said his accompanist hadn't shown up yet. So I said that if it was OK, I'd be happy to play for him. The faceless voice said it would be fine.

So, I accompanied Phil in his two songs and he was really good. Now it was my turn. All the other singers had left and I went to the piano....Then the voice again. "Johnny, would you come into the control room, please?" Oh Oh, I wouldn't get to play. As I walked in they were all smiling.... **Tom McFadden** said "congratulations, you have the job". I said, "I haven't auditioned yet"! Then Tom said "When we started out on this project, we really didn't know what we were looking for. We Knew we wanted a talented man who could work well with a talented girl and guests". (No writers, by the way). "And, while all of these performers were good, we finally and suddenly found what we didn't know we were looking for. When you played for Phil, you accompanied him as though you really wanted him to win. We realized that your attitude was perfect for this show and you would be able to make guests feel very comfortable. Welcome to NBC"

**EASY DOES IT**, lasted almost four years and it was a glorious time. **Alan Handley**, a John Barrymore look-a-like, was the producer, and you all know, he was brilliant, innovative and inventive, and would go on to be a major player in the world of television in Hollywood.

Our directors were something, indeed. These giants all started with us on Easy Does it... **Dwight Hemion, Bud Yorkin, Bill Harbach, Bill Warwick** and more..... And all the great technicians, you know who you are, all played a role in making 6 to 6:30 PM rather special to New York Viewers.

"Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money....."

And, there were the girls who were my partners ...**ADELE GIRARD** ..a beautiful, accomplished jazz harpist who was mesmerizing when she sang a French Ballad. **MARGOT MOSER** ... who went on to start with Rex Harrison on Broadway in My Fair Lady. And finally, **FRANCEY LANE**, the perfect television partner....Oh, that angelic face...perfect from any angle.

The inventor of the orthicon tube must have realized how right he was when he first saw Francey singing "The Boy Next Door". Francey had a great musical ear and she knew every song ever written. She knew how to make guests feel comfortable.... **Eleanor Roosevelt** really enjoyed her visit on Easy Does It.

The animals provided many a diverting moment on Easy Does It...Francey was so taken by a Cocker Spaniel puppy, that she couldn't let it go. I was most happy to present it to her as a gift, she deserved more.

Remember how hard it was to get a telephone back in 1950? Well, the lady up in Harlem who watched over our duck, **ROSIE**, in her bathtub, had no trouble at all getting a telephone because **ROSIE, THE DUCK** was a TV star and had to be available at all times for that all-important phone call. Oh....the power of TELEVISION !

**EASY DOES IT**, had a grand run and on the last day it was performed (it had run it's course) we were all devastated. NBC did us the honor of fading to black for 30 seconds at the end.

I do run on...I guess. At our age we are a bit privileged to do that, but not at the risk of boredom.

Thank you for indulging me, and if this diatribe evoked a smile or a pleasant memory, I am pleased. And in the future if there is a bit more space to fill, I'd be most happy to pick the story up...circa 1952.... My best to you all.

**Johnny Andrews.....**



## Olympic Games Summer 1992 By heino ripp

I had been in Spain before. I was fascinated by Don Quixote stories, travelling through historic places reliving Spain's early years, walking along the Guadalquivir river where Columbus set sail, knowing people who raved at living there. Usually I can find many things to enjoy, no matter where I've been. Barcelona too had many exciting aspects to pursue, but as one who worked the Olympics, they weren't for us to taste. After a month here, I, for once, was happy just to go home.

Spain had done a fantastic job in building new highways, landscaping etc. Where there had been two lane roads, now there were 4 lane superhighways connecting Spain's principal cities. Barcelona's waterfront was all brand new. The airport, subways & busses were quite modern and all ran well and often.

The weather was very hot. Nineties plus everyday. Guess it rained mainly on the plain, but not Barcelona. Our accommodations were is new five story apartment bldgs., built to house the "media press" and sold afterwards as apartments, like Seoul. No complaints here, except my room was 10' x 6', with an entry door, not a window, but a glass door [30"] with a typical roll down shade just outside. However, one usually closed his apt. door while sleeping, and I was reluctant to keep the glass door open, after experiencing the rowdy crowd in Seoul. Later I had to keep the glass door cracked, the shade raised about 20", with the fan blowing inward. Still I'd wake up every morning soaking wet. No air conditioning, but again, I knew there wouldn't be any. So got used to cool showers.

Upon arrival, a very efficiently organized group led us through a maze of immigration, customs, photo ident tagging, to busses, and to our domicile de month. A note with my keys summoned us to the venue immediately. I and my three crew mates changed clothes and went on our way to our location about noon, and spent the rest of the day there, and finally returned home to unpack etc. Complete zombies by now, as all you European travellers are well aware of, for most of us had been up at a normal time on our travel day, napped a bit in-flight, and awakened by the inflight sunrise at about 2:30am. But being awake all arrival day, however, helped set off the jet lag.

My location for the Morning Show was a glass house 60 ft. up, atop a building. (Morning Show, replacing the Today show fm 7-10am EDT). NBC had built an outside construction-cage-type elevator to get to the rooftop glass house, for there was no other way to get there. [Like going up the side of the San Fran Fairmont Hotel]... **KATIE COURIC** and **DICK ENBERG** were the hosts, and they were the highlight of being in Barcelona. They were both gracious, friendly and happy people.

Our days were full 12 hour days. At the beginning we arose at about 4am, finally settling in to 5am, getting a 6:30 bus. Usually we left work 12 hrs later. Getting home sometimes took up to 3 hrs. Tech setup was done with a minimum of people. Lacking a 3/8 inch drill, the cameras remained dismantled on the floor for a few days. Couldn't get 50 ft. a.c cords for prompters, so 6 ft extension cords dribbled in and of course failed "on air" as people stepped on cables...etc.

Trying to photograph our hosts inside the glass house presented us with many impossible parameters.

1. Our glass house was a hall of mirrors, in effect, so you can imagine avoiding reflections and unwanted images.
2. Trying to overcome the sun's 12,000 foot candles lighting of the exterior backgrounds required a miracle, not common sense..

When our hosts first sat down facing the cameras, it was impossible to stare into the bright HMI keylights needed without squinting and tears flowing, and being hot. After much bru ha ha, lighting moguls Brill, Tetlow and Foosy prevailed, exterior brightness was lessened. The location was quite unique in that it was in the Athletes' Village, overlooking the Blue Mediterranean Sea. Lovely! Being there, the winners were more accessible for TV. A Charming group of enthusiastic youngsters.

On the last show day, a storm brewed in, totally darkening the sky, heavy rains plus thunder and lightning, causing power outages. As the rains poured into the set, water got ahead of the mops; in the mobile unit, water started to flow onto the equipment. It was decided to send the crew to the broadcast center (IBC) to do the show there. Moments later with water everywhere, we lost the video lines to and fro etc.. After the biblical deluge and very strong winds, we all sighed relief for the glass house had not been blown off the roof. The studio was not bolted to the building because the building owners

wouldn't allow us to make any holes anywhere, so it was sandbagged and attached without the usual restraints.

The winds blew out all the pollution, haze etc. and finally brought in three gloriously clear, cool days to Barcelona.... After a month, many of us had a day off - our last day in Barcelona. Spent it touring the city. A Great day, but pooped!

Some impressions in my memory file: The Spanish people we dealt with all very hospitable, gentle, great sense of humor, helpful; few seemed to resent my Castillian Spanish, [they speak Catalan.]; The Equestrians. To be able to train these huge animals to run and jump with such grace boggles the mind; The scenic views from the blimp; the intro & outro helicopter shots; the seemingly impossible flaming arrow, arching high above the stadium to light the cauldron olympic flame.

Re the Olympics, I came away impressed by the drive of the athletes. One lady from Algeria stood out, for she had won the gold in the last years women's race .( a long one could have been 1500 meters ) only to be ostracized by the older people at home, for wearing a skimpy costume, showing her face and body, which is very prohibited in Algiers.[ as found out in Kuwait]. This drove her to a Baltic town in Germany where she could train. She won the race again this year, but wouldn't return to her home country where she should be acclaimed, but instead would return in disgrace ! Nice, huh ?

The wounded Croatian girl who practiced running through bullet riddled streets in Yugoslavia, in order to be a contestant. I don't believe she won, but listening to her story was quite heart rendering... Being Estonian, I was almost in tears when the Estonian cyclist won, and the reactions shown on camera of her countrymen. I spoke to an interviewed Estonian lady athlete named, Anu, in Estonian. She was startled that someone outside their country actually knew where Estonia was, no less speak it.... Loved the way the Chinese & Koreans play Ping Pong, volleying from 10 to 20 feet away from the table....

Then the American lady gymnast that just about had the gold medal in her hand, only to step backwards, half a step out of bounds, and lose it. Even more surprising was when a lady, not seen before, from the Unified States won the Gold with a sensational gymnastic routine, a sudden star!.... And the woman racer who was fully in the lead, *was tripped* and fell and lost.

What I wasn't keen on - Our TV tended to always follow the Americans. Many times did not see who won. I wanted to see the winner, no matter from whence they came... Loved the many "Rembrants" the cameramen came up with.

Met some real nice folk from all over and **JIM SUNDER, JIM BLANEY, MURRAY VECCHIO, RED DONAHOE...** Sunder was doing video (at Basketball?. Blaney was doing audio in prime time.. Murray was trying desperately hard at staying awake, for tape was quite overburdened. Red, almost a full time resident, there since May, building the IBC and working in Master Control...

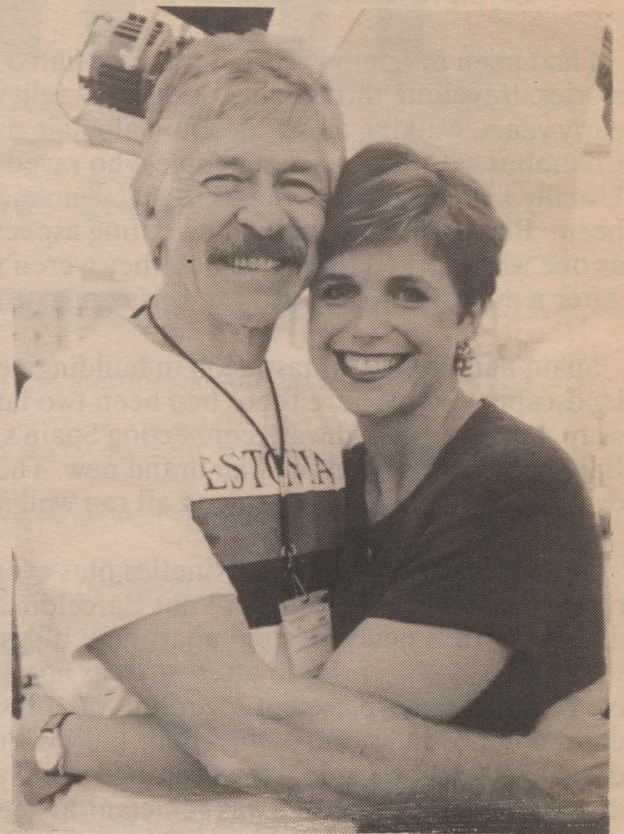
We used the European 625 line system, translated to NTSC 525 line system. Great resolution, but there always was an annoying 50 cycle flicker. All power was 240 Volts, and at a critical time, at the opening ceremony, someone plugged in a 110 v. prompter computer and burned it up. Hate it when that happens !

**KEN AGARD** ( marathon producer ex NBC-er ) used quite an innovative system for the ladies and men's marathon. He used two electric powered vehicle, to track the runners. It carried a cameraman, a reporter, and a microwave transmitter relaying pix to a helicopter, which relayed it to a receiving location. On the men's marathon, I counted eight choppers and two blimps in the sky, almost as spectacular as the runners running thru picturesque countryside.... **JAY BALLARD** passed me in the hall, we schmoozd a while. **RICHIE PHILLIPS** was in MCR and gives his best to you all... **VINCE VACCA** and I barely had time to just say "Hello" the one morning I was at IBC.... **BOB FRARACCIO** and his daughter **MARY**, both working with Bob Costas. After their stint in Barcelona, they planned to go to Paris via Eurail pass, then travel a long itinerary, to spend what he had earned in Spain.. Met **JAY ROPER**, longtime director from Burbank, at the Press village. We talked about a "Peacock West Coast" branch. He wants to join... Chatted with **ANGELO VIGORITO** at the "Party" after closing night. Ran into **JACQUELINE MOORE** getting off the bus after a long night at IBC. Jackie, formerly from 30 Rock, was back in the tape room with Prime Time. This young lady, had taken a buy-out recently, is now - cont'd Pge. **16.**





Dich Enberg and Katie Couric's TV crew in our glass house. Olympic Village is on left and the Olympic Port where the Prince of Spain sailed in competition, is on right.



Heino & Katie in the "Glass Studio"



On one rare early quit, ran into Katie with husband and daughter at the Picasso Museum.



The Olympic Port. The Mapfre Tower is the tall building on the right. Just below on right es our glass studio. The Athletes Village, are the buildings to rite. [arrow]

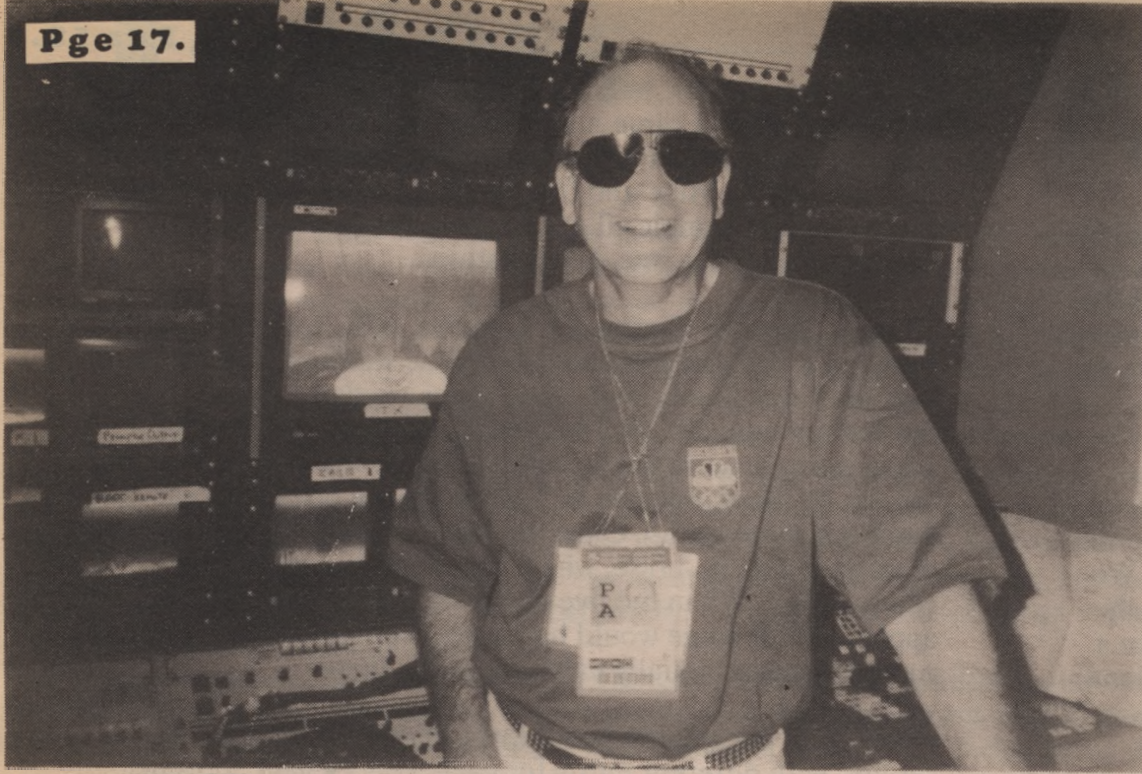


The modernistic glass studio on top of an office building in the Athletes Village



Ken Agard, producer of the marathons with director Andy Rosenberg and his lady





Guess who popped into my control room ? Yep !  
Just like Seoul, 4 years ago, almost to the day -  
Mr Bob Wright, NBC C.E.O. (even says so on his I.D.)



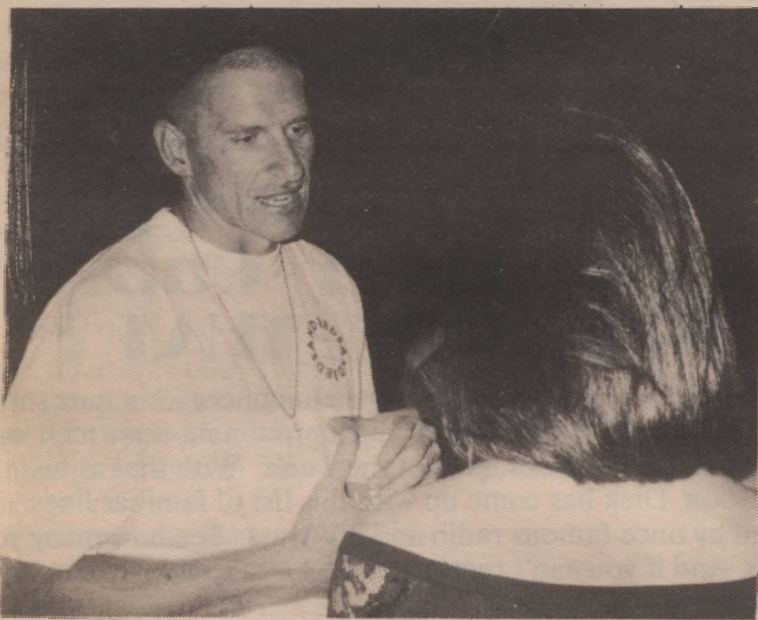
West Coast director  
Jay Roper & excellent cameraman Jeff Zachary



Mark Traub (Today Stage Mgr.) with Michele Gillen,  
I think, and Faith Daniels. You never know  
who you might meet in a Bull Ring !



Heino, sitting out dancing, with our security lady Yolanda and one of  
our lovely British cantina cooks, Janice, who really was a teacher  
on holiday. Her other two teacher friends were dancing to the  
extremely loud music. Sangria and Beer & Pizza was served.. Not as  
elegant a wrap as in Seoul....



U.S. Volley ball Captain [Tilton] hiding his bald head with a cap  
at NBC wrap party. (He and team shaved heads to protest an unpopular  
judges ruling which gave them a loss.)



In the "Bull Ring", where wrap party was held, Dick Leible (tape)  
expounding the virtues of sangria and cigarettes to a lovely lady

cont'd Page 18.

**Attend P.N's Winter  
Holiday Celebration  
Dec. 13th**



a video robotics consultant and T.D'd weekends in Radio City as a freelancer; married to **Charlie Moore** [audio] not too long ago, and looked terrific even with little sleep.

We had a British "O.B." [outside broadcast] van manned by **CLIVE, ROBERT** and **PAUL** from London, who were very knowledgeable, helpful and also pleasant to be with. **MARK TRAUB** appeared as our stage manager, always having things under control. Our crew members were all terrific, except for one who distinguished himself on his first day as being a misfit...

During a rehearsal, guess who climbed into our mobile unit ? **CEO BOB WRIGHT** with some GE brass and wives. He was dressed for the weather, wearing shorts and sun glasses. We schmoozed a while; was almost 4 years to the day when the same scenario was played in Seoul. He gladly let me take a photo, especially for P.N. which you'll find on the Barcelona foto page.

Met **ROBERT VAN RY** at the Broadcast Center, where he had been stage managing with **Bob Costas** in Prime Time.... Worked with **KAREN SULLIVAN**, she did prompter for **Dick and Katie**... Also bumped into Pn-er **JOHN LIBRETTO** at the Big? Bash at the Bull ring after closing ceremonies. He had directed Pay-Per-View, and actually had a good time.... Met **GINNY SEIPT** one day working the Olympics, didn't see her sister.

At our venue, we had a kitchen going for lunches, manned by delightful British ladies, who were teachers on holiday, **JANICE, CLAIRE**, and **SOPHIE**.... Sometimes driving us, and our stars around were **JUAN, PERE** and **LOURDES**, (a special abrazo to her) all young Barcelona residents who enjoyed conversing in English and Spanish with us. **PACO**, a local Spanish fellow, ran the elevator, and you should see him mambo at the Bash! Put us all to shame. One security guard was a Cuban, who had worked in TV for 25 years, then was forced to flee the Castro regime. Went to Spain with his family, and left his parents there, probably never to see them again, very sad. The other security guard was a nice lady, a teacher, **YOLANDA**, who wants to come to the U.S. and teach. Then there were the folks as translators and runners. Wish I were 25 again. Our production manager, **JESSE RAIFORD** tried to teach us all how to juggle, not TV biz, but circus type juggling 3 balls. He and Alan did good, but the rest - well--, time ran out.. Just names to you but dear friends now to me. A delightful and energetic group.

Our crew was blessed with two *outstanding* fellows, our A-2 **ALAN STRUTHERS** from Las Vegas and cameraman **JEFF ZACHARY** from San Diego. First, they were gentlemen, next, best at what they do, pleasant even under duress, and wonderful guys to have around. I sincerely hope we cross paths again sometime, next time I promise you breaks and a full lunch hour....

**ALONZO ROBERTS** from 6th Hour News TD'd one of the Pay-per-view programs. Met him as I was going into to some laundry at a crazy hour. Guess he's been going to the same gym as Joe Piscopo. Looking good Alonz!...

## P.N. CELEBRATES FIFTH BIRTHDAY AT PICCO

Peacock North marked its fifth anniversary on Sunday, Sept 13th. with a luncheon party (dutch treat) at Picco Lissimo restaurant in Fort Lee, New Jersey and some 30 retirees and spouses showed up for a lunchtime of good cheer. A nice birthday cake made it festive and Pete Petersom, our major domo, reported we have a roster of 550 people (have you paid your dues?).. Several first timers showed up -(see PN people - Potpourri), and they wondered why they hadn't come sooner. While the sound of Ft. Lee, New Jersey may sound far off to New Yorkers, your editor drove down from Westchester and really, really it was only a 35 minute trip. Could take longer to get across Brooklyn.. and you'd still be in Brooklyn! So next time for PiccoLissimo Mini lunch, which will be in 1993, "come on over"!

I talked on the air, to Ham operator **EA3OT**, Mike in Barcelona, when I came home. Mike said **ROY NEAL** of NASA - Houston fame, called him when in Barcelona, but never got to see each other. Mike and friends set up a complete amateur station in the Olympic village so the athletes could send messages home for free. Nice gesture....

Lastly, after the Closing Ceremonies, NBC set up a "Wrap Party" in a Bull Ring in town. Everyone was looking forward to this, for it was finally over, and I guess needed a drink. Started at midnight. As I walked in, there were sets of three tables going around the perimeter, except where the Orchestra was set up. Beer, Sangria & ? some special Spanish bread-cake and Pizza were set up. Once the music started, it was hundreds of watts of painful noise, which wiped out any chance of conversation. When the live music stopped, we all almost applauded for some would be silence, but noooooo ! On came recorded music, equally painfully overly loud!

Not quite the elegant Seoul wrap, with their multiple bar set-ups, with different music for each, very elegant poolside outside meal service with waiters everywhere, with an orchestra gently playing and one could easily meander and actually hear each other.

I don't remember seeing any brass in the Bull Ring, rumor had it that they all were on the cruise liner in the harbor, where the clients had been housed, having a - yes, wrap party... R.H.I.P., rank has its privileges. Since I had passed my threshold of pain barrier right after the downbeat, and had a very early airport bus, I left about 3 am shortly after the beer had disappeared.

All in all in retrospect, it wasn't the greatest remote I've been on. I don't believe I'm a chronic complainer, twelve hour at-the-site days one can stand, but not for a whole month, and I bet everyone would have given anything to have ONE day off just before activities began... I believe everyone gave their all, freely. I sensed that most felt they were beat upon, and the worst scenarios became the "set rules". Our meal periods were usually 15 to 20 minutes a day; first air day, 11 hrs on fax and grudgingly given two 5 minute breaks. And I had it easy. First day, OK, for I know it's not easy; It was a giant undertaking, but the body doesn't stop its normal functions just because we're doing an Olympics. Also, when everyone is with you, things go great! I've seen that in almost 50 years of TV....

Now that it is a few weeks later, am at my home, and have caught up with some of the usual chores, have had my own cup of coffee - slept in my own bed and so on, I can sit back and think a bit. It *was* an experience, and I was there, met some nice people, Estonians even, -losing seven pounds, did have some tappas, learned some more Spanish -- well it wasn't a total, and yes, I was paid too... H.

## Dick Dudley's Old Timer Quiz WHO SAID THAT ?

Years and years ago Dick was the announcer for a quiz show titled "Who Said That," during which prominent news men were quizzed on quotes from news of the week. With that as his inspiration, Dick has come up with this list of familiar lines uttered by once famous radio and TV stars. See how many you recall. And if you can't recall them, turn to page \_\_\_\_ for the answers.

- 1- "Do you have a match?"
- 2- "Wanna buy a duck?"
- 3- "Heigh ho, everybody"
- 4- When threatened "Your money or your life!" his reply was "Let me think about it."
- 5- "Peace"
- 6- "The Devil made me do it"
- 7- "I'll slice you into a Venetian blind"
- 8- "There's good news tonight."
- 9- "Goodnight and 30"
- 10- "One hundred, er, would you believe fifty?"
- 11- "And away we go"
- 12- "Your obedient servant --"
- 13- "Round and round she goes and where she stops nobody knows"
- 14- "How do you do, ladies and gentlemen, how do you do"
- 15- "Give that lady in the balcony 50 silver dollars"
- 16- Who said "Who said that?" on the show titled WHO SAID THAT

**ANSWERS to Who Said That? on Pge 26.**



Dear Pete,

It was good to hear from you; but not the news of no more NBC 25 year annual get-togethers. I guess it was to be expected with the changed management. They must know that nobody will last 25 years anymore. It is a shame with what's become of the company. The good old days when we worked as a team to get the best results by pushing the state of the art of broadcasting and by always trying new techniques and innovations are gone forever. Now it is strictly bottom line with little or no concern for quality.

In 1987 I applied for a buy-out but was turned down because I was "too valuable". A year later I was dismissed because my job no longer existed. I had intentions to challenge the situation, however on good counsel I left and fortunately was able to find a new position with Panasonic as a consultant. Panasonic was the "NEW KID" on the block as far as broadcast cameras are concerned. Solid state cameras with CCD'S as pickup devices were coming out and it was almost like the good old days working with the new technology. However, there is a big difference between being an employee and being a customer. My job is to advise the factory design engineers on the requirements of setup and operation of cameras in the U.S.A. and to make presentations at TV stations, SMPTE meetings, etc. during which I explain and demonstrate the latest in camera technology. At this stage of my career I am doing more travelling and public speaking than I have ever done before. But I enjoy it and the best part is that normally I only work 3 days a week, Tues, Wed, Thurs, with a 4 day weekend off.

Panasonic today is a leader today and no longer a follower in broadcast equipment. They have developed digital video tape equipment and digital processed cameras which are way ahead of the competition. a CCD camera does not need to be "Registered" or focus tracked. With digital processing the setup is done with numbers, which CAN'T change on their own like an analog potentiometer setting, resulting in consistencies never before realized day after day after day of use. No test patterns, no setup, no test areas are required any more. Camera matching consists of using the same numbers in all cameras. Digital processing also provides actual improvements in picture quality compared to analog cameras. I don't want this to sound like a commercial. My point here is that the new camera design makes my friend Pete Peterson, the talented color videoman, **obsolete** along with cameramen that were obsoleted by robotic cameras.

I have been fortunate to work with good people at Panasonic. Some of whom I knew when I was at NBC. There is a large group of former RCA sales people here. I think that you should be able to tell from what I have written so far that I have been for the most part happy here at Panasonic. However, it seems strange this year that I was not at the Presidential conventions with some new camera or device. I guess it would have been even stranger being there without my old friends from NBC.

Moving on, I always wondered how Walter Dibbins could travel every day from his home in Long Island to the company mobile unit garage and workshop in Fairview, N.J. What a haul! Here I am travelling from Woodmere Long Island to Secaucus, N.J., but I work from 10 AM to 6 PM so that I don't have to fight traffic, and it is a lot easier sitting in an air conditioned car and not in an overcrowded LIRR train.

I have no complaints. My health is good. I am busy all the time. Best of all my daughter made me a grandfather for the first time in January. I now have a beautiful granddaughter to keep me young and happy.

I hope I have not rambled too much, and if I can be of any technical assistance to anyone, I can be reached at 516-295-2818.

Best regards to all, Fred Himmelfarb

*[ Fred was one of those extremely knowledgeable scientists that NBC was fortunate having in their employ in the development area. He understood practical operational requirements of us folk that worked in TV better than anyone. He fought hard with RCA making NBC modifications to TV equipment so the gear was practical to operate, not just new. You would know that Fred had a hand in almost every new tv product that NBC used. not only that, he was intelligent, soft spoken, and had a great sense of humor. I don't think GE is aware of what they lost when Fred left. ]*

*Hario*

## Travel Log

by Frank Vierling

Voluntarily bumped from our return flight Christmas 1990, Lois and I sweated out TWA going belly-up before we could get use our freebees this past Christmas. They hung in there and we flew to Tuscon to our daughter's mid December 1991. There we rented a car and drove to San Diego to visit a woman Lois had worked with during the great war ..From there we drove (through horrendous LA traffic) to Woodland Hills, Ca. to visit Lois' brother.

While there I had a chance to reunite with an army buddy I hadn't seen in 47 years. In fact I had only found him through the VA the previous summer. I had all my China pictures with me, so it was reminisce on a grand scale.

Then back to Tucson for a family Christmas, less our son who had to hold onto his Jersey job.... So much for episode One.

Next we headed by car to Florida and the NBC Luncheon in Orlando. We stopped on the way to visit relatives and friends from school days and some of our Maine lake neighbors. Had two days with Art Holub in Cape Canaveral before the luncheon.

From the luncheon we headed for Sarasota to my sister's, stopping on the way to see other Maine friends. Next on to Coral Gables (another Maine couple) where we had a mini CBI (China, Burma, India) reunion with three other Army pals, also not seen or heard from in 47 years. Not exactly correct, one had come to see us in Maine last summer. Talk about stories when NBC'ers get together ! One of the fellows lives in Key West, so on his invitation, we headed south for two days of Royal treatment.

Next Stop was West Palm where we again received Royal treatment from the Gerlings. (Side note: Our names are so similar that when he did a good job at NBC, I often got complimented. And when I screwed up, I said that must have been Hank.) The only thing that marred our visit was the liquid sunshine. BUT the company was superb, and after our travel it was good to rest for a few days. Then on home with a stop in Savannah at Lois' brother on Skidway Island.

With two weeks to repack our bags, we were off to Chicago to more Maine friends. While there, we went to the Art Institute to see an exhibit of paintings done by a boyhood friend of mine, Ellsworth Kelly. He is now world renowned. Flying on we stopped in Denver to visit another of Lois' brothers in their new home in Berthoud. Another stop with a niece just south of Denver where I had a chance to visit another (missing 47 years) China army buddy. Another trip down memory lane.

The real purpose of this trip was to get to Tucson to see our new, and first grandchild ! Elena Elizabeth, needless to say, is the cutest girl ever born. At this writing, (May 31) she is exactly five weeks old. She and mother are doing fine. Dad too. Grandpa and grandma too.

Now that we are back home, for two weeks, we must get our act together to head for our summer home in Maine. We'll be back in October for my 50th high school reunion. We'll hold the travel down for the rest of 1992 ... ..

Frank

## Welcome !

### New Members

Andrews, Johnny  
Batsche, Robert  
D'Angelo  
Decker, Robert  
\* Ellerbee, Linda  
Gunning, Roma  
Hergen, James  
\* Herlihy, Ed  
Kimmel, George  
Lafferty, Raymond  
Lombardo, Anne  
MacIntosh, Doug  
MacPherson, Gordon  
Mesrop, Alida  
Parylak, Dolores  
Rogg, Greta  
\* Schaap, Dick  
Scotti, Frank  
Sprague, Charles  
Stedman, Judy  
Trostler, Barbara  
\* Honorary Member

Welcome to  
Peacock North.  
Hope this is the  
beginning of a long  
friendship !

Welcome !

New Members



At The Great Wall of China, with Chinese counterparts and ABC & CBS staff.

From center fellow squatting: Left to Right; Tony Piwovar, Hank Heustis, Peter Groom, Leon Dobbin..Where's Billy Goetz and Walt Werner and Ernie Thiel? Guess they hadn't finished their Peking Duck and weren't allowed to go...



Twenty years ago, a group of engineers, technicians, news producers, reporters and others from the three networks helped to make history as president Richard Nixon opened up the "Bamboo Curtain" by visiting Red China. Thirty six technicians, including 12 from NBC, were given permission by the Chinese government to enter the country. We pooled our skills and worked together to make the trip a technical success.

We began the journey at Kennedy Airport by boarding a TWA Boeing 707 at Hangar 12, on the morning of Saturday, January 29th, 1972. Because the plane was loaded with electronic equipment in addition to personnel, it was necessary to make refueling stops along the way. Our interim stop was Guam, where we stayed for several days before heading for Shanghai. On February 1st, we took off and landed in Shanghai, where we were treated to a sumptuous banquet before taking on a Chinese navigator and flying on to Peking (now Beijing).

In Peking, A red carpet was laid out on the airstrip and many men and women, dressed in blue Mao jackets, came out to greet us. We were taken into the airport building and over Chinese tea, were introduced to our Chinese counterparts. We were then bussed through the city, past Tienamen Square, The Great Hall of the People, past huge posters of Marx and Lenin, and on to the Hotel of the Nationalities, where we would stay for the next 30 days, the first American contingent of this size to be in China in over 25 years. For those of us who were there, it was an exhilarating experience and one that none of us will ever forget.

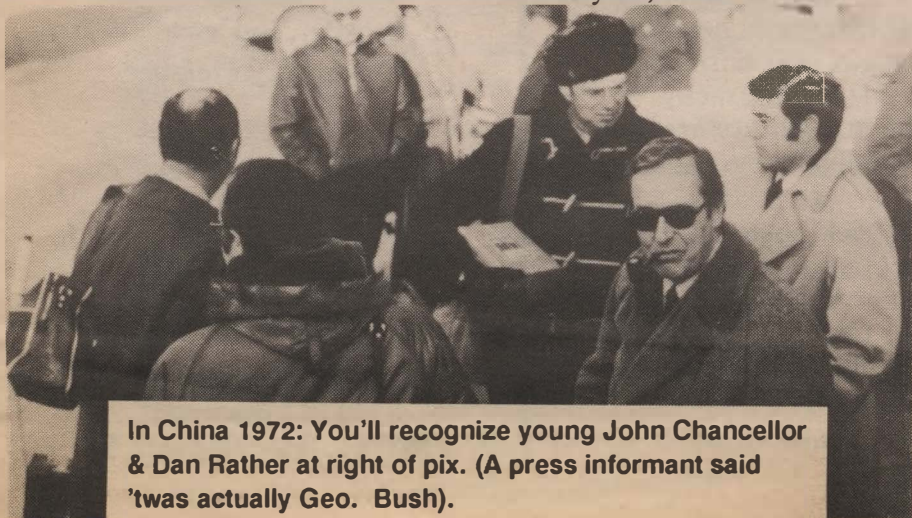
We set up the broadcasting facility at the airport, in a square one-story cinder block building that had been constructed for us by the Chinese before our arrival. All the broadcast equipment, including the power generators, were flown in and set up by the combined network crews with the help of the Chinese technicians. This included two truck mobile units supplied by ABC and CBS. The installation was completed in time for Nixon arrival, three weeks later on Monday, February 21st. Those three weeks gave us time to see the sights and hear the sounds of the city, strange by our standards, but exciting and new. We were given a list of places that were permitted for us to visit, and after our working hours (8am to 6pm), we would be taken by bus to some utterly fascinating places. Among were the Forbidden City, The Great Wall of China, The Ming Tombs, The Summer Palaces of the Emperors, and an Acupuncture hospital. At the hospital we watched at arms length away, operations using acupuncture as the only form of anesthesia. Many of us with weaker stomachs passed on this one.

As I recall the trip that above the sights and sounds of China were the gratifying people-to-people experiences. We found our Chinese counterparts to be warm and friendly, though shy and reserved. They were living in a society that was austere, and had a standard of living that was quite far behind ours. I remember asking our Chinese interpreter Mr. Chung if he would like to own a car instead of a bicycle. He responded that automobiles polluted the air so he would rather have a bike. A very diplomatic answer, but I'm sure an automobile was far beyond his reach.. Shortly into our stay, some of the group broke out with a rash on their bump. Medics examined those affected. Shortly a letter from the "White House Doctors" diagnosed it as the "Baboon Syndrome", caused by paint pigment in the toilet seats. Their prescription was "sit on the porcelain part" of the toilet. Shortly, new seats arrived from Washington no less.. Another day I was walking with videoman Walt Werner, and heard a loud boom! A huge soldier immediately stopped us, raised his hand to motion us away. I said thank you, then he answered in excellent English, You're welcome ! ( PS The boom was from subway construction)

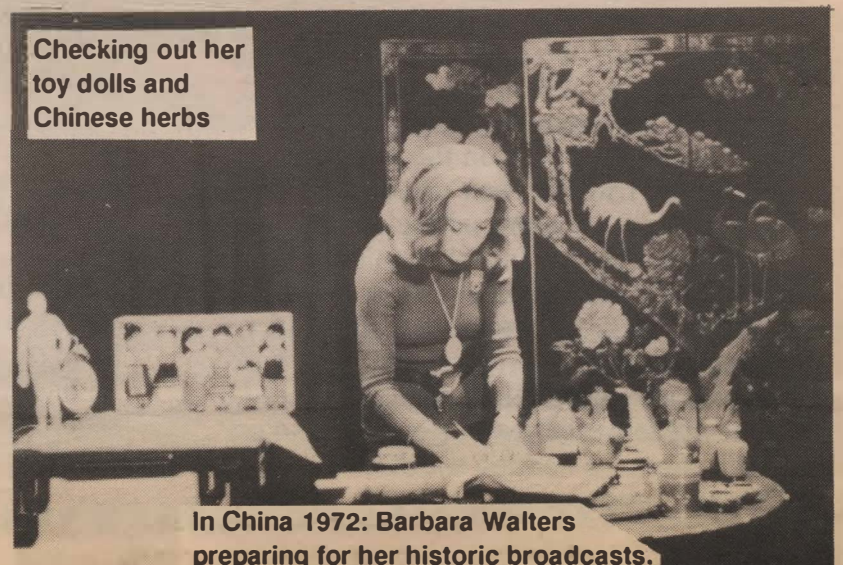
I left China on the press plane on February 28th with a few technicians and the press corps. Just before the plane took off, I decided to take a farewell picture. I went to the door and looked out and there were four of my Chinese counterparts smiling, looking up and waving goodbye. I was surprised and very touched. It was a fitting end to the best "remote" of my NBC career !

Hank Heustis (ex video tape)

July 26, 1992



In China 1972: You'll recognize young John Chancellor & Dan Rather at right of pix. (A press informant said 'twas actually Geo. Bush).



In China 1972: Barbara Walters preparing for her historic broadcasts.



# Happy Years On The TONIGHT SHOW

Page 21.

Dear Pete,

Enclosed is my epic about some of my experiences on the CARSON SHOW. It took me hours to compose it and put everything in sequence. Recalling it is half the fun, telling it is the other half. That show was the best ten years of my nearly forty years of my NBC career, it was one yuk after another!

Pete I miss those PiccoLissimo lunches with you, Frankie DeRienzo, Vinnie Di, and the gang, but Ruth and I look forward to coming up North soon visiting, and join up with the group again.

Our new home is the Suntree Country Club in Melbourne Florida. We're on a lake and surrounded by two championship golf courses. I play 4 and 5 times a week, and playing in the 80's. There's so much sand and water here the courses should be renamed THE SAHARA and LAKE OKEECHOBEE, and whoever called golf a game is crazy! It's my new work!

I'm writing this note to recall my 10 years as Lighting Director Engineer (LDE), on the Johnny Carson show in New York in studio 6B. That was my home away from home those wonderful years. I hope this will jog a few memories for our PN and NBCFR readers too.

I met and worked with upcoming stars such as Bill Cosby, Barbara Streisand, Bette Midler, George Shearing, Richy Havens and with replacement hosts Alan King, Joey Bishop, Joan Rivers, Don Rickles, Phyllis Diller and others in an easy going atmosphere.

I remember Phyllis hosting the show for the first time. She had difficulty with the FOLO Spots, (Dyna-Beam lights) and asked if the LDE could help her! I grabbed a pair of very dark sun glasses and **groping** my way out to the studio stage said to Phyllis, "I'm the Lighting Director, If you speak loud enough I think I can find you" She cried, "Cripes get him the hell out of here!"

The show was fun, I laughed for 10 years with Johnny, Buddy Hackett, Myron Cohen, {Everybody gotta be someplace}, Don Rickles, Jonnie Winters, and the "young" comics Don Adams, George Carlin, Rich Little, John Byner, and Frank Gorshen.

Tonight show FLASHBACKS: (with my lighting crew) Tiny Tim and Vicki's wedding extravaganza (Highest rated Tonight show EVER!); Andres Segovia's 1st appearance; Ed Ames Hatchet job (a classic); "Mighty CARSON arts players, doing MISSION IMPOSSIBLE"; and "Eric is Here", where in a spoof of a cigarrillo commercial, the George Washington

Bridge fell on ERIC the Norseman's (JOHNNY'S) head. (A film clip of the Tacoma Palma bridge twisting and turning and finally crashing down to the water was used for the gag!. There were BROADWAY show excerpts from "Hair",

and "Jesus Christ Superstar", and also CARSON dropping his pants exposing underwear after the monologue on commercial break...just to liven up a DEAD studio audience!.

My lunch break each day included listening to the one hour rehearsal of the Great Doc Severinson orchestra. Though not heard much on the AIR show itself, the group included such fine musicians as Tony Mattola, Clark Terry, Will Bradley, and Bobby Hackett. Many of whom had bands of their own at one time. They were great soloists who could **sight** read tough Tony Bennett arrangements and get it right the very first time! It was one of the reasons why Steve and Edie loved to appear on the show, they loved that orchestra!

Several times we taped the Tonight show at the Burbank studio, and the one experience I will always remember had nothing to do with "Show Biz". It was an Earthquake (7.2 Richter) that hit So. Cal. in 1970. What a blast! It hit with such violence that it threw me out of my hotel room bed on to the floor and caused the patio swimming pool to have waves like a choppy sea! After it was over, we went to the Burbank studio to tape the show in studio "A", which had a glassed in control booth overlooking the huge studio. Suddenly, an aftershock wave (5.1) hit, and all of the high lighting pipes over "home base" and the audience started to sway in unison, almost as if on cue! It was frightening! It seemed the calmest person (?) in the studio and the CONTROL booth was Johnny Carson, who stopped the audience from panicking, and explained the aftershock. It was over in seconds, but that scene will last me for a lifetime!.

For those start up years on the Tonight Show, credit must go to Dick Carson, (Johnny's brother) and to Bobby Quinn Directors, Ray Barrett, TD and Bob Bugg, Audio, Tony Nelle, and Larry Dworkin, Videos, Mike Egan, Teleprompter, Don Boyle, Boom, Cameramen, John Kenny, Jack Dolan And George Weisz, Sound Effects, Frank Loughran and others with whom we aired about 2400 CARSON shows, and watched the emergence of a TV ICON--JOHNNY CARSON.

Pete, congrats to you and Heino and Dan for such a Professional Newspaper. It took me 2 1/2 hours to get through the last edition, and I enjoy the articles such as Enid Roths accounts of her experiences too, Enid, that was fantastic!) and as a CHARTER member of PEACOCK NORTH, it's a great thrill to "see" everyone again. I hope more people write in about their experiences at good ole NBC!

With warm regards to all, *Herb Greeley*, NBC LDE 1948-1988

## Whatever Happened to ... Anne Pacurar ?

In case you don't know who Anne Lombardo is, you might remember me as Anne Pacurar, room 501, TV Engineers Scheduling, from 1950-1955. Those were wild and crazy years in TV, and as stressful as my job of scheduling all of you was, I consider myself fortunate for having been on the scene when TV was experiencing its growing pains... and it was all LIVE, too.

(Husband) Vic had 35 years seniority when he took early retirement this past December. He was an audio engineer with WNBC Radio until GE took over, when he transferred to NBC-TV, and then to Electronic Journalism, NBC News.

Vic and I met when I returned from Miami Beach, where I had been assistant to the producer on the Jackie Gleason Show. I returned to NBC in 1967, and joined WNBC Radio as producer of the Long John Nebel Show. Vic was doing Brad Crandall's show, which followed our 8:15-9:00 Long John Nebel Versus pgm., and was on until midnight. Then we returned at midnight for the Long John Nebel all night talk show.

We were married in 1972 and celebrated our 21st anniversary on August 21.

I have a lot of "Golden Oldie photos and will send some to Heino when I have some copies made. [If you can trust me, you can send originals and I'll return them. Need not make copies., Heino; P.S. It's great to hear from you.]

Vic and I are seriously thinking of moving to Florida. His dad is in Boca Raton. We would be grateful for any suggestions from current Fla. residents as to pros & cons of various towns.

I discovered the joys of computing a couple of years ago, and via my PC, I'm in contact with Rita Young (Auburn, Me.) who did all the TV and rehearsal studio scheduling when I was at NBC. Rita worked with Peter Affe and Vince Mitchel. Rita and I are both on GENIE (A.Lombardo and R.Young59) and Prodigy (my ID: CTFR66A). If anyone else is on those services, give us a holler.

We have so many questions of "Whatever happened to..." and can't wait to read more of Peacock North, to learn the answers....Sincerely, *Anne & Vic (Lombardo)*



## **Pn People** **" LATE POTPOURRI "**

Re Barcelona: It was nice to see Dick Ebbersol looking over the "TODAY" setup at the Olympic Village, with an entourage. Bit different from Sat Nite Live Dick. Just today, learned that the Producer of the "Today"-spot, 3 hr Olympic show with Dick Enberg and Katie Couric was Roy Neal's son, David Neal, whom Roy had visited. They were at IBC and I was at the glass house. Knew both, but never connected the two. Small, strange world.. Mary Resnick worked Barcelona, but never got to see her sorry to say..

MARVIN EINHORN (former TV Director and now an actor) writes: What haven't I done since 1985. Well I HAVEN'T been skydiving, nor am I running for president - but life continues to be exciting.

I played Mr. Mushnick in "Little Shop of HORRORS" in Boston for six months, then did the role again in Birmingham, Michigan, my home town Philadelphia - and just recently

col. B

Beverly, Mass. I've done Neil Simon's BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS and BROADWAY BOUND. Annie and I spent six glorious weeks in Stockholm, Sweden doing Sam Shepard's FOOL FOR LOVE at the English speaking theater (thank goodness not in Swedish!). Last winter we got lucky again and we had eight weeks at the Asolo Theater in Sarasota, Fl. where I played a major role in the Christmas production of MY THREE ANGELS.

I've done some radio, lots of soaps - appeared on ANOTHER WORLD ( and incidentally those visits to Brooklyn are like old home week for me seeing all the gang TD Skip LD Howie, Audio Blaney etc. etc.) I've extra'd in films and just recently appeared in Penny Marshall's wonderful film A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN.... (One of my scenes ended up on the cutting room floor but I'm still in the end of the flick - and I get my own screen credit)..

col. C.

Recently did a commercial for Roy Rogers - and just about everyone has seen it including the crowds at Yankee Stadium where it ended up on the huge Ballfield screen! .. And I've just completed a commercial for Longine Wittenaur Watches. It'll be on the air by the time you read this...

In between there have been lots of auditions, major disappointments - BUT - THAT'S SHOW BIZ !! It's wonderful having six grandchildren, and some wonderful vacations - we keep in touch with Jim and Bonnie Straka, and we hope to see Marian Eiskamp come october. Also see Sue Drury on the # 11. Bus on 9th Ave - and Jerry Polikoff keep trying to get together. See lots of the old gang on the upper West side - including Dave Handler, Dave Gould, Sheila Riley.....

And when I really retire we'll get to lunch with you all in Fort Lee -- And yes! I do get nostalgia attacks for NBC from time to time, which I'm told is

col. D **Page 22.**

not fatal.. And P.S. If you need a character actor - I have a tux and do travel. Annie & I send love ! [Marvin, I'll never forget late at night, in 8H, while doing a space shot, You, Tony Nelle and I translating "The cross eyed bull" joke into Spanish". To the rest of you, well - it's one of those "you had to be there" events.. Heino]

PAUL KIRRKAMM writes: I really enjoyed reading the May issue of Peacock North and believe it was the "fatest" one I've seen. Of particular interest was the photos of some Ham operators in action, particularity Andy Hammerschmidt, whom I haven't seen since we both left former WNBK, Cleveland. Ham-ing is one of my new hobbies and my call is KA3WPZ. I only do C.W. (Hank Folkerts, please note for your Ham roster)

Best regards, and I'll be looking forward to the next issue of Peacock North...

(Paul, it's nice to hear from you; Leon & Vern are

col. E.

mentioned elsewhere in newsletter. Also how about a photo of yourself at the rig - and the rest of you Hams - Send in a pix!, Heino).....

Irv Messing told us at the PiccoLissimo Mini Lunch - 5th year anniversary of PN - that Red Mckinnon, lighting Director, had been taken to the Atlantic City Hospital, with a gall bladder attack. Bill Klages flew in to finish Red's lighting chores for Miss America. Talked to Red at the hospital and he sounded good, cheerful self as usual. Says he truly misses all of his old time NBC friends, and itches to come to a get together, but work keeps interfering with his life. Wants to be remembered to all of you.

John Koushouris is still producing, Elmer Gorry can't stay away from Atlantic City, migrating there like the Geese going South, he's been a fixture there for so many years; accompanied by Bill Flood, who has spent many Labor Day weeks there. Seems as

col. F

tho NBC isn't as involved in Miss America as it used to be.

Red and I talked for quite a while, remembering the fun (and grief) we had doing those early Max Liebman color "spectaculars" in the 50's with 50 piece orchestra, huge cast of dancers, singers and cast - and the rest of huge Brooklyn One studio filled with the stage hands, electric crew and scenery 25 ft high; two chapman crane cameras, a fearless dolly camera and a pedestal camera and four mike booms.... One and half hours, all live, in color. Red, get better quickly, we all love you..

Hank Folkerts also is hospitalized with a gall bladder problem. Red says Hi and re-lived Havana, Cuba when you guys went there for a live telecast of Steve Allen. Hank had been all set for a trip, and when he woke up, a different trip had ben set for him. Hank get better fast, miss you on the Ham Net..(H.)::: JAKE PATENT, who retired 22 years ago as an NBC projectionist,

col. G.

made his first appearance at a PiccoLissimo lunch. Sunday, Sept 13th, and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Jakes favorite memories - those early Huntley Brinkley days when IATSE film editors would dash into the projection booth with sometimes the "next piece" while the program was on the air. Jake would thread the projector but not the take-up reel so the material could be aired and then the footage fell to the floor. Not neat, but expeditious, and made it on the air. Jake recalls too, the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, when NBC kined the BBC broadcast in London, put the film on a chartered plane equipped with a developing tank, edited it over the atlantic, and aired the finished story on the network from a facility set up at Boston's Logan airport! Those were the days, my son! Jake is now 87 !! [ reminds me of the time when news film had to be sent to the US from England, and Frank Badami, Unit manager chartered a

col. H.

with his American Express card when no scheduled flight was available, and the airline wanted guaranteed payment, since when would any rational person want to charter an airline to sent a single package overseas?? Yes it too was aired on Huntley Brinkley... Stu and Donna Rudick (video) joined the luncheon crowd thanks to modern medicine. Stu's heart now ticks thanks to a mytral valve from a company called St. Jude's... CHRIS (VTR) and Penny Kehl were 1st timers to Picco, driving in from Farmington, L.I. (Exit 63). They toured Florida this summer with Ed Lulov and visited Bill Miller and Doc Sharran in Port Charlotte, also saw Al Vitucci - all in good health... Ray DiPrima (Film) and spouse spent the summer in Cape Cod and Rockport. They got a 1st hand reports on the Barcelona Olympics from grandson who worked for NBC. Now the DiPrimas are off to Hawaii in October. (Paul Harvey told of a lady who was devastated in the

**POTPOURRI ends on Pge 30.**

**JOIN PEACOCK NORTH**  
**application on last page**



*Ed Hymoff*, newsman: Ed worked in NBC Radio 1950-60 and helped create "Monitor". He died in Belmont Mass, in mid June at age 67, after a brief illness. Over the years, Ed had worked for the World Telegram & Sun, Int'l News Service, CBS, and covered Korean War for a group of New England papers. While at PBS, he developed their satellite broadcast system connecting 500 radio and TV stations. He was consulting for U.S.I.A., Voice of America, league of women voters, helping produce the 1980 Presidential debates. During WW II, Ed worked for the O.S.S. and that cloak and dagger agency was the subject of several books he wrote.

*Leon Chromak*, passed away early September. Leon was a T.D. in Washington D.C., and was associated with "Meet The Press" and Nightly News for many years.

*Vern Swiger*, longtime NBC cameraman and field ops engineer passed away on April 5th. Vern worked for NBC 31 years and was 77 years of age. There wasn't an important News remote from Washington that Vern wasn't called to participate in.

*Russel Strebel*. His wife Evelyn and daughter Susan informed PN on Sept 15, of the passing of her dad, from a heart attack at the age of 79. He had worked for NBC 48 years, 1930-78. Russell worked in "traffic". Family resides in Queens.

*Bob Johnston*. We have no details, but Bob was in his eighties. He had been a long time radio audio engineer at NBC N.Y. There he did the sound for Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony in 8H. Also Bob had worked on "Your Show of Shows", a live hour and a half on Saturday nights, starring Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca, Carl Reiner, Howard Morris and many famous guests of the 50's era. A gentle, quiet and competent man who had a great ear

for sound, especially music balance.

*Johnny Pawlek*, who was based in Burbank and was Bob Hope's favorite audio man, going wherever Bob chose to put on a radio or TV show. I have no further details, but he always did a great sound job and was a very pleasant person to have around.

*Bill States* was originally from New York, was one of the truly pioneers of modern TV. Was in the NBC development group around 1939 +/- putting on the early TV programs. Then most of the group went into the Navy to develop flight TV eqpt. From there returning just before war ended to TV broadcasting. He TD'd many of the early TV programs(1944-on). Bill was living in California when he passed away.

*Mrs. Jack Burrell*. Ed Stoltzenberger gave us the sad news of Jack's wife passing away in California.. I have no details. (Jack was also like Bill States, at NBC, then Navy, doing similar early TV work. After retirement I had heard that Jack had gone to Africa, and in his 70's had learned to fly and was flying a piper cub there.) *Kathleen Greene*. PN was notified on Sept 15, that Kathy had died in Florida. Kathy served at NBC a long time as an AD and director. She resided in Manhattan and was in Florida about to buy a condo. She suffered from cancer. During treatment she contracted pneumonia, from which she passed away. We all remember her for her pleasant, personable attitude, and generally upbeat great attitude, as well as her competence. We shall all miss her.

*All the members of Peacock North reach out with sympathy and condolences to the families of our departed friends.*

## Begin "CONCENTRATION" ON Page 24.



**Norm Blumenthal, Bobbi Armstrong, Bob Clayton, Hugh Downs**

## A Producer Remembers



I spent Sunday, August 24, 1958 nervously pacing the floor at 30 Rock. The waiting seemed interminable, as evidenced by the countless half-finished containers of coffee and half smoked cigarettes. Long, painful months of anticipation and hope were now reduced to mere 35 1/2 hours. The due date was Monday, the 25th, at precisely 11:30 AM! At that time the nation would either welcome or reject the new arrival -- an NBC-TV game show called CONCENTRATION.

It was now about 3 AM, we had been in Studio 3-A since midnight, and the night dress crew was taking their lunch break. Our "million dollar" set (actually \$27,000) looked horrible in the light of the few work lamps furnished by the studio electrician. Pieces of the set, like the contestant podiums were missing; the huge, electronic game board was downstairs on the loading dock, unable to be squeezed into the freight elevator. Our scenic designer was calmly supervising a team of carpenters and painters, who were desperately trying to match flats that would not match. I was beginning to feel quite ill. "Relax," unit manager Joe McShane suggested, "everything will be all right. TV has come a long way. This is 1958!"

Glancing around the studio at the sleek, new black and white cameras, with their turret lens mounts, I knew he was right. My thoughts drifted to my first job in television, and how upset my boss, Dan Enright was, when he learned I didn't even own a TV set. I wasn't the only one. In 1946, only 8,000 homes in the United States had television sets -- an infinitesimal penetration of .02%. By 1947 -- 14,000 homes. 1948 brought the first significant jump -- 172,000. 1950 found TV manufacturers jumping for joy -- 3,875,000 homes became hooked on TV. By 1955, over 35 million! Total value of all sets produced that year was an astounding \$1,071,020,000!

I am proud to admit that I contributed to that figure, by purchasing my first set that year. That, or lose my job as graphic artist/production assistant on CBS-TV's WINKY DINK & YOU.

This was a series in which children at home participated by drawing on pieces of plastic affixed to their TV screens. Remember, this was in the mid-fifties, computer graphics and the myriad of other modern electronic devices did not exist. Much like the ingenuous Ernie Kovacs, we had to be very inventive. Through clever use of matting and key insertions, we could place host Jack Barry into the strangest of settings. Dressed in white, against a black background, Jack could climb a cartoon mountain or jump in and out of a kid-drawn magician's hat. Just like the black magic we swiped these techniques from, we could make props and people float through the air, disappear and reappear. Horizontal and vertical wipes were achieved with pull tabs. None of this video magic would happen unless the kids shouted the magic word, "Winko!" We utilized every conceivable method of super-imposition, gobo, split-screen and dime-store gimmick to achieve our special effects. Primitive by today's standards, they were successful enough to capture an average audience of 1,964,000 homes. WINKY was produced twice weekly, live, at Liederkranz Hall, an old opera house on New York's fashionable East Side.

In those days, many abandoned concert halls and Broadway theaters were converted into TV studios. Orchestra-level seats were torn out and replaced with camera runways. Audiences, seated high in the balcony, viewed the shows on small monitors, or with binoculars. Toscanini's famous Studio 8-H, Milton Berle's 6-B, and all the others at Rockefeller Center were originally radio studios. Windows in their control rooms were bricked up, cables

and equipment were installed, and Winko!, instant TV studios.

Television inherited more than studio space from these sources. Broadway supplied stagehands and designers; radio supplied the technicians and announcers. The grandeur of their former art form made for a difficult transition. This was not the "big time," but it was the only action in town. Big budget radio drama and musical variety were rapidly becoming a fond memory. TV, the fledgling new art form, gobbled these people up. NBC Symphony staff musicians were assigned to play background music for soap operas and game shows; golden-voiced radio announcers scrambled for the few on or off-camera assignments; technicians were sent back to school to learn how to add pictures to their craft.

So, here I was, sitting in one of those reconstructed radio studios, just down the hall from the HOWDY DOODY studio watching the chaos that was to become my new show. The lighting director and his men were focusing their lamps, their ladders straddling the miles of audio and video cables that were being attached to disassembled cameras and microphones. Busy people were everywhere, and everyone seemed to be getting in everyone else's way. Eventually, the whole mess fell into place. Dress rehearsal was delayed four hours, by 10 PM, we realized we had a show that wouldn't work. In the few remaining hours, we reconstructed, repositioned, repainted and changed anything we could. Somehow, we did get on the air.

Our first show was a bomb! We now had 24 hours to start over and meet the next day's deadline. All the material, representing months of preparation, had to be scrapped. We did this every day until Friday, and finally had a full weekend to try to rebuild our dying show. After the second week, we were doing a show that worked. Everyone agreed, it was good enough to last at least 13 weeks.

CONCENTRATION remained on the air for 14 1/2 years, and became the longest, continually-running daytime game show in history. During that period we produced 3,796 half-hour telecasts. If we were on the air one half-hour per week, we did enough shows to last 73 years. Starting with the premiere in 1958, it would have been seen through August, 2,031. We awarded 512 automobiles, from Rolls Royces to compact cars; 397 boats from cabin cruisers to sailboats; 1,287 domestic and foreign trips; 12 trips around the world; 857 fur coats; diamonds by the "carat" bushelful; merchandise and cash for a total of over \$10,000,000 (at those year's prices). This loot was distributed to 7,592 contestants. NBC made a fortune with this show. Our viewer were treated to no less than 22,776 one minute commercials.

Sometimes, those commercials were harder to produce than the shows. Often, elaborate sets were required, like full-sized kitchens or portions of supermarkets. Sponsors could be tough and demanding. Before cigarette spots were outlawed, the makers of Old Gold insisted we smoke their product in the studio. When we refused, they said if Dean Martin dutifully agreed (which none of us believed), we had better do the same. I continued to smoke my pipe. Our host, Hugh Downs, was not intimidated when some tough guys from San Francisco tried to force him to eat Rice-A-Roni on the air. Always honest and aboveboard, Hugh refused. A compromise was worked out, he just held up an unopened box, and smiled. Many sponsors preferred having their messages integrated into the show, with our M.C. as spokesman (a subliminal endorsement?).

That word "integration" once gave us quite a scare. Upon returning from the studio one day, my near-hysterical secretary informed me that we were being brought up on charges of integration. I was confused by the terminology. Our section of contestants included quite a few minority groups. **cont'd below**

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Further investigation disclosed that it was a sponsor requesting the charges (cost) for integrating commercials into our show.

By the late fifties, color entered the picture. RCA forced all shows into "Color Weeks," to help sell their new product. Each program had to move uptown to the Colonial Theater in order to be telecast in living color. Experts tried to eliminate all colors that wouldn't work (red areas banded uncontrollably, etc.). They color-corrected everything from hand-held sponsor products to make-up. Our most difficult problem, was keeping the pictures compatible for the majority of our viewers with black and white sets. Most producers, including myself, argued futilely that colorization would hurt our shows. Puzzles on CONCENTRATION were light grey against dark grey. Full color drawings would make them too easy to solve. I won a shallow victory, by compromising and making them pink on maroon. Oh, the sacrifices I made for progress. I often wonder where the "color girls" are today.

The advent of video tape was far easier to accept, and understand (for most of us). Not only did it give us a second chance, but we could finally tape ahead and take vacations. When tape was first introduced, I was instructed to send a demo reel to an ad agency in Florida. The agency people, having no playback facilities of their own, took the 2" tape to their local station for viewing. Never having seen a VTR, the local TD informed them that the "film" was blank, ruined by exposure to light. The fact that there were no sprocket holes, proved that those big-shot network producers had a lot to learn about the business.





Switching roles, on the 10th anniversary of Concentration.  
Norm as M.C., Bob Clayton and Hugh Downs as contestants.

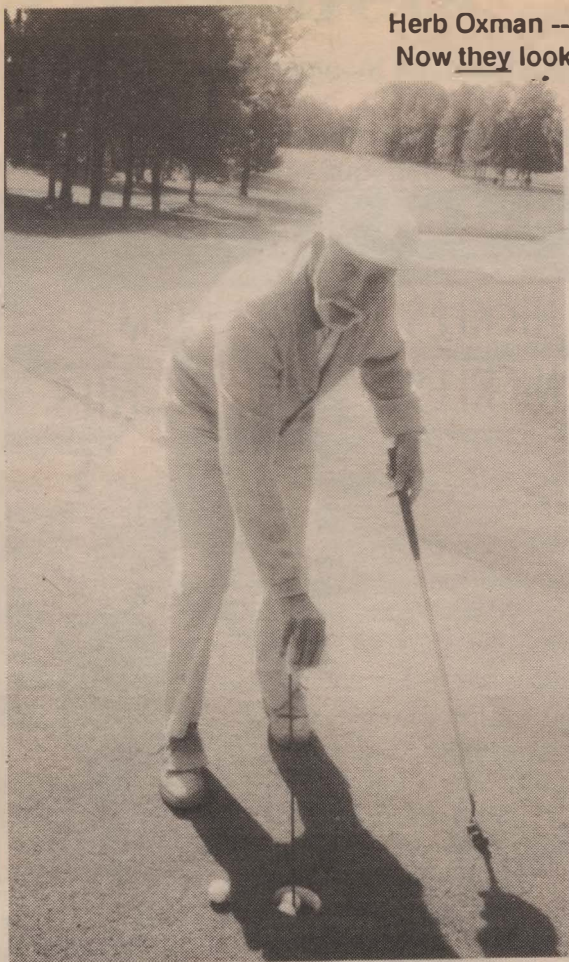


8G control room during Concentration:  
Front, L to R: T.D. Bill Hildreth, Director Lynwood King, A.D. Ellie  
Tarshis, Norm, Unit mgr, name escapes us. Behind, Producer Jim Miles  
with visiting children. (Jack Coffey's brood ?)

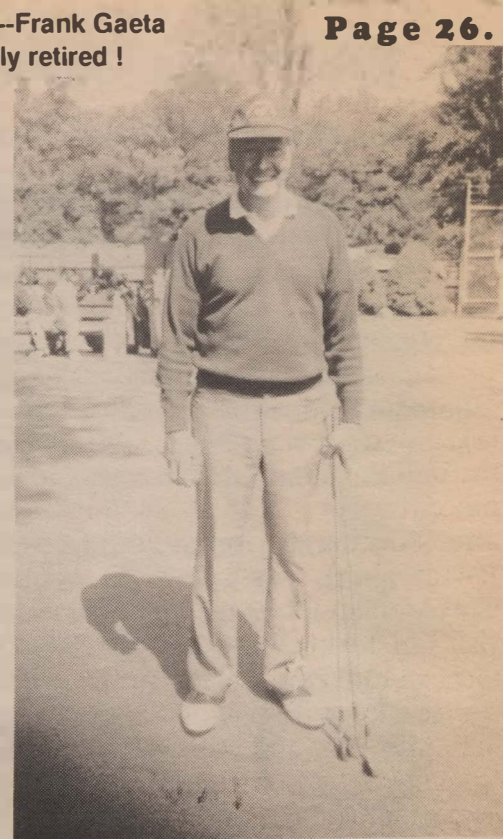


# ANSWERS TO QUIZ "WHO SAID THAT ?"

- 1- Columbo - Peter Falk
- 2- Joe Penner
- 3- Rudy Vallee
- 4- Jack Benny
- 5- Dave Garroway
- 6- Flip Wilson (as Gertrude)
- 7- W.C. Fields to Charlie McCarthy
- 8- Newsman Gabriel Heater
- 9- Newsman Walter Winchell
- 10- Smart on "Get Smart"
- 11- Jackie Gleason
- 12- Orson Welles (On Mercury Theater)
- 13- Major Bowes (On The Amateur Hour)
- 14- Norman Brokenshire
- 15- Dr. I.Q.
- 16- Walter Kiernan



Herb Oxman -----Frank Gaeta  
Now they look really retired !



## PRODUCER REMEMBERS cont'd fm Pge. 24.

We did indeed have a lot to learn. Improperly labeled tapes were shown on the wrong days, and once the same show was aired on two successive days. The audience thought they were reliving the previous day. Several irate employers would not believe their employees' stories about being out sick for a few days. How sick could they have been, if they could come to New York and appear on a game show? We had to explain that shows were taped during those people's vacations. We added to the public's confusion by wishing them a nice weekend on a Tuesday, or talking about a sunny day in the middle of a blizzard. To make matters worse, if we were preempted, that particular show would be played back the following day. If this happened too often, and we were taped far enough ahead, we would wish people a Happy New Year sometime in March.

In November of 1963 John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. All producers were ordered to check their upcoming tapes for any reference to the late President. Perhaps the producer of WORD FOR WORD did not realize the double meaning of a joke made on a show taped a month earlier. A contestant was introduced as, "hailing from Dallas, Texas." The host, Merv Griffin, faked a western drawl and asked if she had "checked her guns at the door." The studio audience in October, when the show was taped, thought it was funny. The home audience in November, when it was shown thought it was in disgracefully poor taste. Even though it was not his fault, Merv had to make a painful plea for understanding the next day, on the air.

Today, thanks to video tape, five game shows can be ground out in one day. In the early days, it took the better part of one day to do one show. We had to set and strike on a daily basis. Now, they can pretape until they drop from exhaustion. Economically it is far more feasible to produce in this manner (but not for the pocketbooks of the technical crews). Artistically, it is often disgraceful. Multiple-tapings in one day force the shows to adapt to simple, consistent procedures that give them a neatly packaged, "wrapped-in-saran" look. The only deviation from their established norm, is the difference between the first and last shows taped. After a long, hard day of taping, the crew starts becoming giddy and often sloppy. Like the mass production line of the automotive industry, the last car off the assembly line can be a real lemon. It's often easy to spot the last show off the taping assembly line.

Video tape has also created another strange paradox. Many producers and directors, not around during the pre-tape era, are deathly afraid to do a live show. They know of no other way but to rely on the safety blanket provided by the post-production facility. We had no such alternative.

A wonderful sense of reality, spontaneity and excitement accompanied the live production. Whenever some unexpected minor catastrophe occurred, the show had to get on, and it did. We had more than our share of problems, like players who were so nervous they fainted on the set (one actually had a heart attack, but fortunately survived); overly-tranquilized contestants who became

so comfortable in their seats, they wouldn't leave after they lost; our game board catching fire while on the air; all of the inadvertent indiscretions from contestants and even the talent.

Bob Clayton, our announcer, before taking over as host, once gave an interesting description of a prize. Copy for a water craft concluded with the words, "... and features twin screws for pleasure cruising and fishing." An obvious reference to the outboard motors. Accidentally, Bob said, "... and features twin cruise for pleasure screwing a fishing." Even the unflappable Hugh Downs had his embarrassing moments.

While interviewing a contestant, he said, "Hello, Jane, I notice from your card that you've been married eight years and have a nine ...", he paused briefly, and continued, "a nine year old son?" He tossed the card aside, remarking that the typist had made a mistake. But Jane looked up at him and calmly said, "She didn't Hugh, I do have a nine year old son." As the laughter died down, Hugh decided to stop the interview, and start the contest, with the usual words, "You know how the game is played, don't you?" With that, the audience exploded. These were mild ones, some of the others are not fit to print.

Our only salvation was the one minute commercial. We were blessed with sixty seconds to replace a faulty mike, camera or burned-out light bulb. If more time was required, I'd try to capitalize on the situation. I would come back up on a close-up of the electrician atop the ladder, play mysterious background music, and cue the audience applause when the task was completed. This bit of "ad-lib" producing worked every time. By letting the audience in on our problems, they became part of our family and sweated it out along with us. It also proved we were human. Lights blew out in their homes didn't they? We never pretended to be perfect or infallible. Looking back on it, I have to admit that I actually welcomed an occasional break(down) in the routine, provided it wasn't too catastrophic. Part of the charm of those shows was their unpredictability, and that kept them entertaining and far from routine.

We tried to produce shows that were real in every way, announcer fluffs, wrong shots, and even occasional cuss words could not be erased. We lived with it, and enjoyed every minute. And so did the viewers. P.S.: I'd like to thank all the wonderful people I worked with, who made my days at NBC so unforgettable. CONCENTRATION had such a long run, I guess we had just about every technician, unit manager, scenic designer and stagehand who ever worked at the network. I dare not, and will not forget all the other departments for their part in the success of this and all the other departments for their part in the success of this and all the other shows we did together. You people spoiled me. Regardless of where my career took me, I was never able to find the talent and professionalism that came so naturally to all of you. Even though we were young and eager, we built an industry. We all have the right to be proud. ....



On a recent trip to California to visit with our son Ken Jr. I received this copy of the NBC Studios on Hollywood and Vine. He also had a copy for my Army Buddy and Retired NBC engineer, Howard Ialberg, who I had not met since the War, obviously we had much to reminisce about.

I am not sure about the date the picture was taken, but looking at the automobiles, and KRCA on the building it appears to be about 1954. The only other time I visited these studios, was in 1956, after working the Republican Convention at the Cow Palace where I was relief TD for Heino Ripp, Chuck Corcoran and the late Jerry Ireland. During that visit I met with Bob Johnston who was working on a local station commercial for El Producto Cigars. Of course I knew Bob from his work on the NBC Symphony in Studio 8-H, and was aware of his intolerance of smoking in his control room. It surprised me when he got up from the console, and went out to the

studio, and asked the property man to give him some cigars for his friend, (me), and proceeded to make me a present of a hand-full of cigars. However he said he was giving them to me on one condition, and I finished the sentence saying, "I know, don't light them here"..

Seeing this photo of the studios on Hollywood and Vine, brought back memories of the late Tommy McFadden, who at one time, I believe was Vice President and Station Manager of the Hollywood NBC Studios. I have put together what I consider and interesting background of some of Tommy's life...

Thomas B. McFadden died Sept. 20, 1990 of Cardiac Arrest after a long bout with a tumor on his lung. Tom was not a smoker. He was 74 years of age. Learned this from the Bogota N. J. High School Alumni Assoc. of which Tommy, and my wife Jaye were in the graduation class of 1934..

Tommy, Jaye and I grew up in the same little town of Bogota in N. J. I was four years ahead of them. In the 1934 year book "Prophecy" listed Tommy as "The most likely to succeed". Over fifty years ago a fellow student and friend, Jackie Howell signed up on the steamship Moro Castle as Cabin Boys. The ship sailed from Havana Cuba to New York, and if you recall it suffered a disastrous fire with a great loss of lives.

Prior to the fire, the ship's Captain died of natural causes, and the First Officer took over. During the Confusion, someone ordered the anchor dropped, which then turned the bow of the ship into the wind, causing the fire to burn thru the entire ship. It was then decided to cut the anchor chain, as there was no longer power to raise it. Tom and friend Jackie sat for hours cutting a link in the chain with Hack-saws, thereby releasing the ship to float freely in the wind which would blow it up on the Jersey Shore at Asbury Park, along side the Asbury pier. The local fire departments were able the then fight the fire from the beach. The day after the fire I drove down to Asbury Park and saw the fire hoses pouring water against the hull, which was still so hot it sizzled.

Both Tommy and Jackie were heros, and NBC hired them as members of Guest Relations. They were assigned as Tour Guides and many times I saw Tommy taking a guided tour past the radio studios. Tommy made a good appearance and was a good speaker. After a few years Tommy worked with Bill Stern in Sports as a Stats Man, and later in the News Room with I believe Abe Schector....

In the meantime, during the War, Tommy went into the Air Force as a pilot flying planes "over the Hump," the China Burma India route. Upon returning to NBC he worked as a News Producer for NBC local WNBC in New York. He then transferred to Hollywood where he became Station Manager of KRCA at Hollywood and Vine. Later he returned to New York as Vice President and Station Manager of NBC's Flagship station WNBC.

Tommy left NBC and went to T.W.A as Vice President of Mid East Sales. After a few years he left TWA and went to work as V.P. of Eastern Airlines in Miami Florida under Frank Borman, the President of Eastern. Borman was a former astronaut. Tom and his wife, the former Marge Hutchinson, also a former NBC employee have been living in Miami Beach. In retirement, Tome was Vice President of the American Cancer Society, Florida Division.

All of us who knew Tommy shall miss him. A real gentleman. The Class of 1934 prophecy, that "Tom was the most likely to succeed" were right.

KEN ARBER



Who is this lovely lady ?

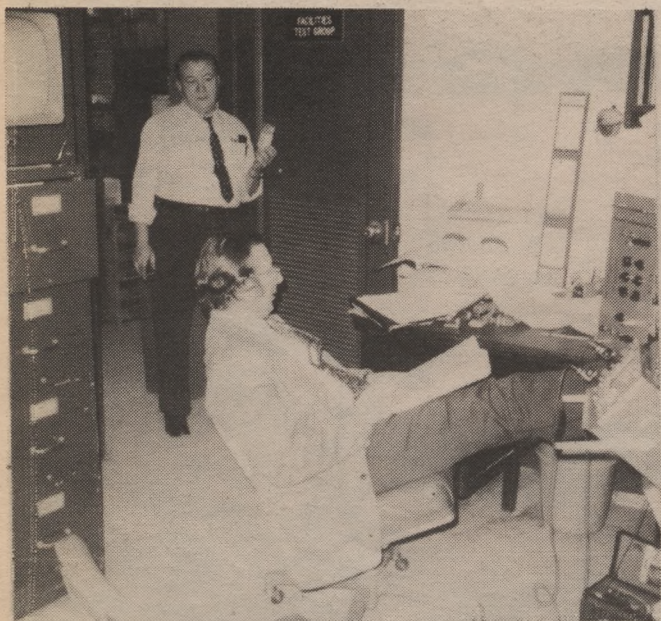


Who is this lovely lady ??

Turn back to Page 31. for ans.



# Convention Memories - Then :



1984 Test Group:  
Al Malinek coming thru door & Joe Kolb



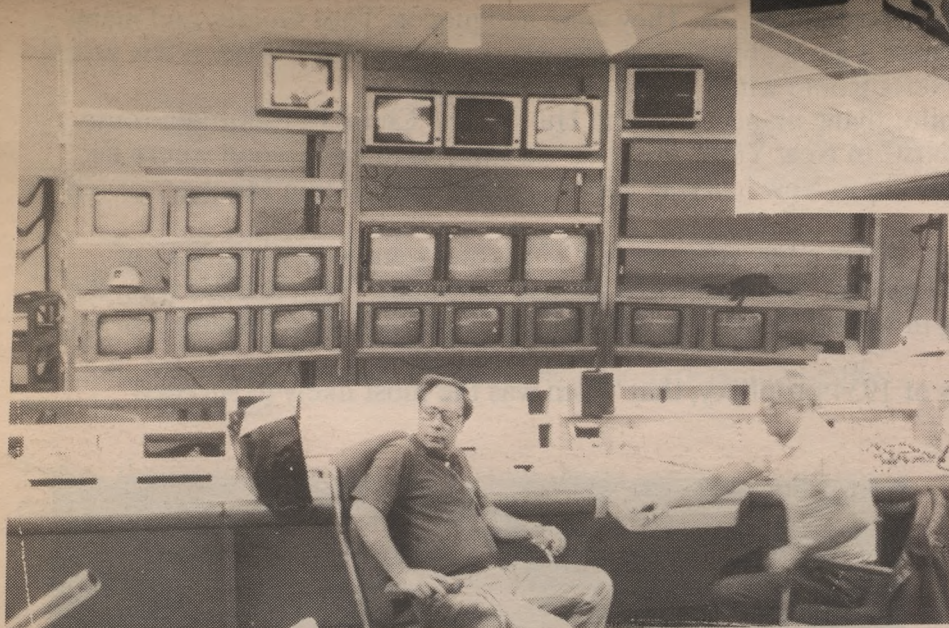
1984 San Fran Convention"  
Bob Palladino & Scott Schachter, audio maivens  
building a temporary home for a few weeks.



1964 - 8H Elections:  
Joe Gilligan, Bob Cameron watching Joe Kolb,  
fixing a circuit board.



Heino Ripp at TD console, San Fran 1984 convention



1984 Convention "Air Control" rm.  
Tom Sabol, T.D. at left and Jim Blaney on right.



Meanwhile, back in New York Master control,  
David Hubby, left, Walter Himmelberg at right  
and Bob almost squeezing into the photo at Right

... AND NOW →

Peacock North Newsletter  
is printed at

**Redmond Press**

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



T.V.Pool video control: Steve Roskin, Bob Batsche





Pool Exec Producer (remember his accounts of life at Cape Canaveral?) and Karen Nathanson.



T.V.Pool control, Dem Convention:L. to R. T.D. Steve Cimino, Director, John Libretto, A.D. Randy Wands.



Studio 3A Video control for "Sunrise" Howard Earle, Electronic Mtce Paul Winter



Pool Crew Fm Left: John Hillyer, Steve Roskin, ? hidden, Bob Reese, Steve Cimino, Geo. Ciliberto, Bob Batsche (rear), Bill Goetz, Jim Marshall, Pete Peterson. Seated, Ronnie Jordan

In July, some present and some former NBC staffers worked the Democratic Convention at Madison Square Garden for the Network Pool, feeding pictures to the four networks and thirteen subscribers, including C-SPAN.

In addition to producer **Bob Asman**, Director **John Libretto**, T.D. **Steve Cimino** and A.D. **Randy Wands**, were: **Len Basile**, **Tom Hogan**, **Ronnie Jordan**, **Bob Reese**, **George Ciliberto**, **Bill Goetz** and **John Hillyer** on the cameras; **Steve Roskin**, **Bob Batche**, **Bill Taylor**, **Steve Singer** and **Joe McCort** worked in the Madison Square Garden Control Room..

The best to all my PN friends  
*John Libretto*



Dem. Convention, M.S.G., NYC: Video crew: Fm.front Susan Knoll, Paul Ranieri, Yogie, Pete Peterson



Attend  
Peacock North's  
Winter Holiday  
Dec. 13, 1992



"BACK FOCUSING", on 1992, the membership of Peacock North continues to grow, a hearty welcome to the new members as our roster now approaches the 550 level.

I called a few members and asked them to comment on thoughts they have. Their outstanding responses are in this edition. Those by Norm Blumenthal, Herb Greeley and Fred Himmelfarb are very interesting and make delightful reading. Others' letters are forthcoming in future editions, and this will serve as notice if you are called upon for your views past and present.

The mystery correspondent (known to me and name available upon request) covered the LaMaganette luncheon story elegantly. We were all glad to have Johnny Andrews in our company, and he hopes to be at future affairs with us. Johnnys now entertaining cruise line passengers in the Mediterranean with a charming piano medlizing talk show (tape available at nominal cost) that takes us back through memory lane of early years in radio and TV. (when I heard it, I didn't want it to end)!

"Seniors" from the "TODAY" show were well represented for the shows 40th anniversary celebration. A large table of "TODAY"ers were brought together by the efforts of Marie Finnegan. Group speaker, Alida Mesrop reminiscences' were enjoyable and informative, and we picked up a few new members for PN.

As you can see from this editions splendid layout and story compilation, Heino Ripp,(YAY) has returned from the Olympics! He's our "GOLD MEDAL" PN WINNER. His report on the Barcelona ventures gives us an idea of how different and changed things are today. Glad he's back OK!

While Rippy was gone, stories came in, I called about 30 PN members in the 201 area code area to find if they were "Word Processor Computerized", almost none were. But luckily, ONE call came through, so thanks to TONY and NANCY NELLE, they pretyped some stories onto disk to help out this edition. Any other volunteers with an IBM machine can be of service, we'll provide the "Professional Write" software program for you. (Of course, Rippy reshapes it all to make it work)!

"FRONT FOCUSING" on '92/'93- Please look for an article which brings to your attention a new law. It is effective JAN. 1993, affecting lump sums. There are severe penalties in this law imposed by your "Congress?!" **Bring this news to the attention of those you know who are about to retire or change their place of employment.** It is appalling that lawmakers are so

remiss in responsibility to their constituency, especially senior retirees, and it only further weakens confidence in good government. Entrapment has never sat right with many!

Dan Grabels somber page one story says it all in two words "THE END", We were sorry to learn that NBC will no longer have the annual "25 yr." welcoming event. Not at the Plaza, nor the Tower Suite nor even 8H. It's gone! I was notified by NBC Atty. Mary Stringfield at a luncheon to express the lament of NBC and Mary herself about the demise of the event of so many years. The emphasis has again fallen on the shortfall of income for the network and so cost cutting on nice things like personnel and other gratuitous affairs are the modus operandi. We will miss Mary's respectful cooperation with Peacock North. We are as you can see further loosing links with the past. As I write this, Mary has called to let me know she too is gone from NBC!

On the horizon, it is apparent we are "ON OUR OWN", no outside help or finances, and our newsletter is an expensive production. Yes we have looked into "bulk mailings" (you never know if anyone has gotten their copy, moved, or died as bulk is never returned to sender, and the cost of bulk is not cheap unless you mail in the thousands of copies), and pictures in the newsletter are not inexpensive, and the printing company is not a benevolent philanthropy doing this for entertainment. We will, despite the expense, keep the 1993 dues at \$20/yr. and those who are 80 yrs. old or over are free from dues. That gives you young'ens a goal to shoot for. There is no revenue for advertising, so its up to you to keep the flow. Please send in your dues early "parents" so you can keep this 5 year old kid going!

A note of thanks to those who have served PN in the past. PEACOCK NORTH just celebrated its fifth birthday on Sept.13,92, at a PiccoLissimo birthday party for PN.

We look ahead now to an affair to supplant in DEC.the "25 year NBC event". It will be a "PEACOCK NORTH HOLIDAY TIME MAXI EVENT" a semi-annual get together affair complete with all the bountiful gourmet extravaganza and trimmings as we have enjoyed in the past, and more, to be held at the RAMADA INN in CLIFTON, N.J. on DEC.13, 1992. **We will need a large turnout to show how we care for our own!** So send in the coupon found in this edition to let us know we can count on you to "BE THERE".

REGARDS, PETE

## Last Page of -- "PN PEOPLE POTPOURRI"

cont'd fm Pge 22.

col. I.

Fla. hurricane vowed that she wanted to go as far away from hurricanes as is possible. She travelled far far away - yes, to Kauai.. Gary (TD) and Dorothy lorio came north from their Fla. place to spend the summer in Bellmore, L.I. and enjoy visits with 8 children and 15 grand-children. They had their own population explosion. Golf is their other passion. They've sold their Lake Worth townhouse and are now renting in West Palm Beach..... Having relatives overseas often leads to travel. That's the case with Mort (Employee assistance and Millie Aronoff who again visited their son in Paris, then drove through Switzerland and on to Milan and Venice. Also hit Austria, Czechoslovakia and Frankfurt before returning home. Great, says Mort, but never again in the summer...

col. J.

Ester (Religious Pgms) and Ben Weinstein enjoyed a trip to Baltimore's Peabody Institute for an Elderhostel program on Russian literature, music and ballet. Their main interests are balroom dancing, which they do 2-3 times a week, and their two grand daughters... A regular at Picco luncheons is Peret Tintle, former VP of Guest Relations... Enjoying the Sunday brunch also, was Nick Ponella (TD-Film-Lastly "TODAY"... ) Doc and Lily Potter will mark their 48th anniversary with a Caribbean cruise. They were married in Exeter, England in 1944 while Doc was helping win the war... George Peters (audio) and wife Francesca retelling old NBC stories at lunch. Geo gave in and is letting a financial advisor handle his "lump" and wife is President of the mental Health

col. K.

Advocacy Group.... Tony (Sr Video)(ask him to tell you the story of the cross-eyed bull in spanish) - anyway, a "Special Thanks to him and spouse Nancy for helping to get the newsletter into computer disks for H. Tony bought a cruisins sailboat when he retired, and this year he won five first place trophies at his yacht club. Will soon be competing in Stamford in an event to be attended by Danish Royalty... We've mentioned Irv Messing and spouse Dolly helping old Jewish folk in his area by doing all sorts of chores the elderly can't do by themselves, even being company to them. Irv has old type radio tubes from the 50's that this deceased scientist's family want to give away. Want them? Call Irving at 201: 797-4404... A longtime friend and helpmate of P.N.,

col L.

Mary Stringfield is among the latest to defect from NBC. Mary got a better offer, so she thought it was time to jump ship.... And Howie Atlas (mstr cnt'l) has become a grand-father for the first time... Larry Cirillo, longtime sports producer, was dismissed shortly after returning from the Olympics...

Our condolences to Gene Afrunti whose three year old son died in a swimming pool accident... And to Mr & Mrs Jack Marshall on the tragic loss of their daughter... Get well wishes to Jaye Arber, Ken's wife, who injured a knee in a fall... to June Carlton, Lee's spouse, who is undergoing cancer treatment .. Marilyn Jacobs fell and shat-tered her hip at home. Is getting rehab. and treatment Get well fast. The best fm all of us.....

**To Everyone: "Thanks" for your Contributions, Photos, Computer biz, Stories, Anecdotes, Attendance, Best Wishes**



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# WATCH OUT - JAN 1st. NEW LUMP SUM XFERS RULES

Page  
31.

Recently, according to an article in the Chicago Tribune, legislation that will take effect on Jan 1, 1993, any lump sum distribution from a company pension plan will be subject to 20% withholding tax if the check is paid directly to the employee. This "trap" built into the new withholding law could mean more taxes due on April 15.

Now, lump sum recipients get the full amount and have 60 days to deposit it into an IRA. Earnings continue to be tax deferred.

Under the new law, funds not put into the IRA are counted as taxable income.

The new withholding rule, means that an employee with \$200,000. in a company plan, would receive a check for only \$160,000. if it were paid to the employee directly. The \$40,000 balance would be held to cover potential taxes should the full distribution not be rolled over into a retirement plan.

If the employee deposited the \$160K, he would have to pay tax on the \$40,000 that was withheld, since it wasn't deposited in the new account.

The entire \$200K can be preserved, and taxes avoided by having the employers (before any funds are paid out) to make a direct deposit of the \$200K to the IRA, thus avoiding the 20 % withholding. Also the employee can ask the company to keep the money until they are directed to move it to your own IRA.

Critics say that Congress has set up a trap for workers. It is

an opportunity for the employee to make a serious error.

The change in the pension was included in legislation passed this summer to help pay for an extension of jobless benefits for the unemployed. It was intended to raise \$2.1 billion in '93 and \$26 million in '94. The sharp drop-off in 1994 anticipated revenue shows that the lawmakers "are well aware of the trap they have set". Looks like Congress is expecting that for a year, the public will be either uninformed or stupid, and that the treasury will benefit".

The worker may still roll over the remaining \$160K within 60 days. If the worker doesn't make up the \$40,000 difference, that \$40K will be counted as taxable income. Thus causing additional tax liability and more in early withdrawal penalties if the employee is younger than 59 1/2.

The 20 % withheld is not kept by the gov't forever, as long as the \$40,000 withheld is replaced and rolled over into the IRA. You can get a tax refund after filing the next return. (But where do you get that \$40,000 to put into the IRA ? So looks like only the \$160,000 out of the \$200,000 is working for you. Nice, huh?

The government has your money in hand and gets the benefit of its use, between the time they took it til you pay it back.

Better tell this to your friends who may be getting a lump.

To Join Peacock North, use this application  
Fill in this form and mail to:

### Peacock North

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

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

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TOWN : \_\_\_\_\_

STATE : \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ AT NBC FM \_\_\_\_\_ TIL \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT AT NBC \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

1993 DUES - \$ 20.00 PER YEAR  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PEACOCK NORTH  
OPEN TO NBC EMPLOYEES WITH SERVICE OF 25 YEARS OR MORE SERVICE

LINDA ELLERBEE pictured with PETER PETERSON

at a recent taping (AUGUST '92) session of her LUCKY DUCK production company series show Nick News W/5 for the NICOLODEAN NETWORK. Linda is happily and busily engaged in this program that brings a sense of CARING between adults and the small fry. Show guests giving advice include many celebrities. Linda says there's LIFE after NBC, and is glad to see former NBC'ers at work on other studios sets, sez "Hi to all my NBC friends", "And so it goes".



I WILL ATTEND PEACOCK NORTH'S  
"WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION"  
Sunday, December 13, 1992  
at Ramada Inn, Rte.# 3 East,  
Clifton, New Jersey.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fee \$ 30. per person. Make check out to PEACOCK NORTH  
Please respond by November 15, 1992: Mail this form with check to:  
Pete Peterson, 30 Ann Arbor Place, Closter, New Jersey, 07624

OVER 80 ??  
for NO DUES -

Register with Pete

Ans. to Who is this. pge 27.  
Muriel MacPherson  
"Today's first Weather" and "all around girl"



## Fotos From Our Album



Crew # 2. 1950's, Armstrong Circle Theater  
Studio 2A - 106th Street.

Top, L-->R:

Mel Hench, Walter Arnold, Billy Goets, Al Finelli, Herb Ling

Bott: Bill Kelly, Buddy Joseph, Elwyn Allen, Phil Berge

**13 Unlucky?**  
**Dish Posh - Come To Our**  
**Winter Festival Dec. 13th**

PEACOCK NORTH  
30 ANN ARBOR PLACE  
CLOSTER, N.J. 07624



**First Class**