

Editor: Dan Grabel - Designed/Published by: Heino Ripp January 1993

25 Year Club Inducts 77 Members

FOUR MARK 40 YEARS WITH
NBC

by dan grabel

NBC inducted its longtime employees into the 25 Year Club and the 40 year society on Tuesday evening, November 10th at the executive dining and meeting rooms on the 52nd floor of the RCA (to us) Bldg.

In a switch from the traditional bash the company had sponsored for perhaps 40 years at the Plaza Hotel's grand ballroom, and the 1991 ceremony at the Tower Suite in the Times-Life Bldg, no retirees were invited to witness the ceremony and to share the memories and buffet. This was strictly for the 77 men and women marking 25 years and the 4 who were marking 40th anniversaries, and select management personnel. In prior years some 3 to 400 veterans had been invited.

The setting was a long corridor, about the size of the 8th floor studio hall area before they narrowed it. A bar was set half way down, and at the fifth Avenue end, a small orchestra group played.

After letting the hors d'oeuvres find their way around, and some beverages served, the guests were asked to form a line to one of the adjacent rooms.

Here Bob Wright, the CEO, greeted each of the guests of honor, chatted with them privately, and then posed for a photo, which can go on the mantelpiece. There were no speeches, nor, due to space, was a group photo taken. Freelancing Al Levine, who used to work at NBC until the photo unit was disbanded, and his partner took small group photos as they wandered through the crowd.

Peacock North representatives were invited so they could introduce the honored guests to the retirement club. Heino Ripp and Dan Grabel, wearing PN buttons on their lapels, spread the word.

Edward Scanlon, Exec. V.P. Employee Relation, Ms. Peg Mckinley (who replaced Mary Stringfield) invited PN to the event and kindly offered that - if we can help you in any way, don't be afraid to ask. In addition, Ariane Mautner was called upon by NBC to come out of retirement for a while to help with the arrangements for the party. Like she had done so well for lo these many years.

When the guests of honor departed, they were given a copy of the newsletter from PN by the young men and ladies of the guest relations staff, as well as a "goody bag" from NBC.



Heino Ripp, (L.), Bob Wright and Dan Grabel (R.): P.N. was invited to the NBC's 25 Year Club celebration. Times have changed. It lacked the expensive glitz, food and drink of the Plaza, but NBC's policy to remember their old-time loyal servants was kept intact. 77 celebrants in all. Wright holds photo I took of him in Barcelona in the "Today" mobile unit.- More 25 yr page 4.

It WASN'T THE "PLAZA" But All Enjoyed P.N.'s " Winter Festival "

THAT GLORIOUS PEACOCK NORTH

by I. Herbert Gordon

As always there was a hint of a smile, the feisty, warm charm that is her special personality.

She stood at the podium, looking out over an appreciative audience of some 100 Peacock Northers.

"When I first started at NBC," she reminisced, "I was assigned with some other girls to see that no one, NO ONE, got in to hear the famous NBC Symphony Orchestra concert without that white card. If they didn't have it, no one got past us.

"People came up waving phony passes. They came with excuses. "I left mine at home." Some said the General had invited them, personally.

"The worst of all was this little, wiry fellow, he looked Italian, who came rushing up and tried to force his way past. He yelled. He pushed. No way.

"So," she laughed. I was new there. Who knew from Toscanini." **cont'd Pge 6.**

P.N. PEOPLE

by heino ripp

From Marian Eiskamp, now residing in Tennessee, this report for P.N.: ANN KRAMER and MARIAN EISKAMP, News staffers, got together in Albuquerque for a brief visit in the Land of Enchantment where Ann now resides. Marian was en route to Santa Fe for an Elder-hostel and stopped off to visit with Ann, TOM LOEB and his wife ELOISE. Tom was a producer for the "Kate Smith Hour" and "Ethel and Albert" back in the Golden Age of TV. Ann and Marian showed him the Peacock North Newsletter, and now we have another eager member. Tom loved reading about all those NBC people. They all spent an evening going down memory lane with many stories and

laughs about the great time we all shared at NBC when TV was young and so were we !!

We can always depend on MARIAN keeping us up to date. She also praised the magnificent colors and never has she seen such sunsets as in New Mexico, and Marian says, I mean a reallllly B I G blue sky with no pollution...

In Santa Fe, at the college they said they were at 7,000 ft - with 35 % less Oxygen. Well, she sez, I needed the O/2, My God, I was breathing like a pervert ! (A lot of us breathe that way at sea level!)[I know this is more than you wanted in your article Marian, but I felt I had to share it with the cronies.-H-].... **cont'd pge 2.**

Column A

Now from the glorious state of California, San Diego to be exact, Announcer BILL McCORD took the time to write that he looks forward to each PN, special issue and believe me, they are all SPECIAL. Says he enjoyed reading about the retirees in Barcelona, and believes NBC couldn't have done such an excellent job without all the "Oldies". (I have to add Bill, that there of course were a great many of "Newies" amongst the troops, including folk from around the world, who were magnificent, plus the new, very stable technology now available, -H.-). Bill enjoyed a phone visit with DICK DUDLEY on their 18th wedding anniversary. Congrats! - Bill says he hears MEL BRANDT, or his voice double, on some of the commercials for a candidate for US senator. Still sounds good.

Bill revealed, "My life is a quiet one, and the missus continues to work as a nurse - anesthetist, and is looking forward to retirement in a few years...Also Bill notes, - retirees all over are getting together. WLW retirees have organized as Peacock North has. Bill worked there in 1940-41 and from 1946-1951.....

NORMAN DAVIDSON, (Art director/scenic design) writes - the answer to the mystery un-named unit manager in the control room photo of Concentration - is VITO MATTI ! - Now let's hear the "Of course, it's Vito!"... Now "Back to the videotape", no, photos... My dear friend Ken

Arber has mislocated the old NBC studios in Hollywood. They were on the corner of Sunset Blvd (Right side of pix) and Vine (the street at the left. He just moved them over two blocks. (such power!)(Norm I always wanted a proof reader, com'on over for the next issue. H.)

Overheard-seen on the NABET computer Billboard - BOB & DIANE JUNCOSA took a trip to the Mediterranean and stopped by the World's Fair in Seville, Spain. He indicates that it was very crowded and had to wait hours in line for the exhibits. Also toured in Barcelona, which was still full of tourists. Bob speaks Spanish like a castillian resident. Has returned now and is heard on the NBC Ham net quite frequently from his California home. HOWIE ATLAS was to stop in for a visit, but due to the early two feet of snow "on the pass", and no chains, decided not to get onto hiway 50 and 80 - yup the same 80 that crosses New jersey and kept going west. Makes it easy for the old timers, only have to remember one hi-way number when going west...

ED WACKERNAGLE reported on the Ham net that SAM and MITZI ROTH from California, (retired from NYC), were celebrating their 70, I'll spell that, seventieth wedding anniversary. Bob Juncosa hearing this on the ham band, says, cheesh, I wasn't even born yet when they got married ! Congratulations to both of you newlyweds.. That's a real milestone. Sam and Mitzi keep up the good work; write to tell us your

secret, I'm very impressed!....

HOWIE ATLAS writes that Diane & Bob Juncosa, on the way to Europe, attended a luncheon, setup by Howie at the Holiday Inn in Westbury, Long Island. Attending also were DAVE GOULD, SCOTT SCHACHTER, MURRAY VECCHIO, ED KLEIN, FRANK GAETA, ARNIE DICK, BILL DELANNOY AND HOWIE. He says the connections were tenuous trying to time the arrival at JFK, getting to the Inn etc., but all worked out like a charm, and best of all everyone had a great time. Howie recently became a grandpop thanks to daughter Laurie...

ANDY HAMMERSCHMIDT from Hilton Head, S.C., former Engineering V.P. in NY, echoed many of you, with "the last issue of PN was tremendous". (Here PN takes a very low bow, thank you). Says he enjoyed reading about Barcelona. (After I read it again, I realized that in spite of all the "agida", I actually was quite glad I did go, might even do it again)... Andy hadn't heard from PAUL KIRRKHAN in Wash. for a long time, and was pleased their path again had crossed. Andy gets on the Ham Bands, and had a nice QSO (chat, in Ham talk) with ROY NEAL (W6DUE), who relayed some sad news, which Andy sent us about CHARLES COLLEGE. It's in the Silent Mike column.... Good news: Andy told us RITA STIPO looks the same as she did back in the fifties....

---go to column D please---

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Christmas Greetings photos courtesy of James Mullen

Each year, James Mullen, Sales Promotion Manager at WNBC-TV, organized the very popular WNBC-TV Christmas Greeting, which played on the air during the Holidays. Jim recalled that everyone was enthused about getting a moment on camera, a real morale booster at Channel 4. Jim supplied these photos for you all to mull over. See if you can find the Pope in the Pizza - (Oh excuse me it's hard to forget I worked on Sat Nite Live)... see if you can find yourself or some of your old friends... This was YEAR 1975

**Send in Your GOLDEN OLDIES,
Tweak a Nostalgic Memory in
someone! Yeah! Go Ahead !**

REUVEN FRANK writes a note re: the TODAY Show group photo on last issue's Pge 13. The fellow peeking in left of frame is identified as BOB BENDICK, who was probably exec. producer of Today at the time of the photo. Thanks Reuve, appreciate the info, always nice to hear from you...

DORIS PARYLAK writes to regret missing the last Picco Lissimo luncheon, but had a convention to attend in Washington. (Bet it was at the White House with the Bush's)....

DICK DUDLEY sent in an article from the Times applauding KIRK BROWNING.(tv director cum laude). The occasion was the awarding of the Silver Circle Award from the N.Y. Chapter of the National Academy of T V Arts & Sciences, to add to his many, many musical awards. The article stated that Kirk was happy as a chicken farmer in Ridgefield, Conn., when Samuel Chotzinoff, an egg customer, and NBC musical director became friends. Kirk's wife, a high fashion model wasn't keen on living on a farm, and he says Chotzinoff and the Mrs. conspired to leave the farm. With the help of Shotzi's friend, Gen'l Sarnoff, he was taken on at NBC as a stage manager. Three months later he was promoted to director. Most recently he has been busy directing "Live From Lincoln Center". I had worked doing NBC operas with Kirk many times during his 13 years at NBC, and it always was a delightful pleasure! Doing a concert featuring Vladimir Horowitz at

Linclon Center with Kirk added another Emmy to my and the camera crew's collection. Kirk is a very young 71 years of age... JOE STURNIOLO and missus Fran, writes from Brooklyn that they are well, but not very flexible, devoting much time to 90 plus parents. They did manage a 2 week summer vacation, spending a short time in Michigan with JOHN MARTIN, recently from radio mtce, who is busy clearing 10 acres, the beginning of an electronics factory, "Electronics Processing". He's spreading out from having run the business from the basement. Also they visited WSLB in Ogdensburg, N.Y., where he began his career. Says he didn't recognize a thing. (Joe, have been to 30 Rock lately??).... BUD RUKEYSER, Jr. notes "Saw my first issue! Congratulations. Great fun and many fond memories!.... LOUISE PAPPAS says, "How I wish I could attend the Winter Holiday, but got more bad news! The partoid gland cancer has recurred. Scheduled for another operation at Sloan Kettering, Nov. 13. Am coping as best as I can.. Again, thank everyone for all their notes and letters....

ROZ BIGELOW sends a short note from Spring Valley, N.Y.- It's a pleasure to renew P.N. Congrats to the whole gang!.... A note arrived late November from MARIAN EISKAMP, writing lefty, saying she has been in the hospital, and probably won't be attending the Winter Festival, but Doc says not to turn in her plane tix, 'cause she will be

able to travel soon. So Marian for goodness sake, get well not soon, but quickly ! !....

DON BLAIR has arrive to their new residence in Venice, Fla. Expects to visit with the NBC Retirees at Orlando in March. While having dinner at the Venice Yacht Club, who comes walking between the tables but former NBC V P BILL CORRIGAN. After chatting a while, agreed to get together soon; but his wife immediately let it be known, "not till my drapes and curtains are delivered. (Seems I've heard that also at our new home) Have a nice Holiday!....

.....ATTENTION ALL YOU NABET COMPUTER BUFFS... There is a NABET bulletin board, located in Chicago, which you can call into and leave messages for your ex NABET cronies. Howie Atlas , Harold Mofsen, Bob Juncosa, Sid Chomsky, Harry Katzman, Pete Peterson, Orlando Tamburri, and other folks that are NABET, not necessarily from NBC, but ABC etc. On the NBC Ham net I hear talk from others (Joe Kolb and Bill Miller), who sometimes find it more reliable at times, than the 20 meter band's propagation is. Talk to any of the above mentioned for a rundown of what's requires. Could be fun, easier than regular mail, not very private since it's like a bulletin board on the wall. One can simply call in via your computer and modem and see if there are any messages. Also it's cheaper - free.... O.TAMBURRI seems to

---cont'd in column G---

on page 8.



This was YEAR 1978

**P.N. 1993 DUES:
PAYABLE JANUARY 1ST**

To Join P.N: Send In Application on Page 31

A BIT MORE RE: NBC 25 Year Bash

Page 4.

by heino ripp

At my 25th year event at the Plaza, I was very impressed by a statement made at the dais by Walter Scott (Chairman of the board, I believe). He said that ABC and CBS essentially have the same technical facilities and resources that we at NBC have, and the reason we are considered Number One, is that we have YOU!... So it was nice to see that the company was still honoring the dedicated people that have spent so much of their life trying to keep the network at the Number One position.

All in all it was a pleasant evening, for we knew most all of the honorees, and it brought out to Radio City many of the hard-working vets that had been scattered throughout NBC's remote areas, for example Yehiel (Jerry) Ryba and Tony Rivera from Brooklyn's Electronic Maintenance, also John O'Connor who does the editing for Another

World. Lenny Basile, who mostly does camera in sports on the road, as was Bill Jarvis, mtce. expert usually from the Fairview office, Pete Weiss from EJ mtce, Videoman Steve Roskin who was lost in Brooklyn for a while, after so many years at Sat Nite Live, now back in Radio City doing Donahue. John Marrin who you never see came out from the equipment room to schmooze with the rest of the new 25 year-ers....

Barbara Cline, NBC sports personality, a new 25yr lady, came with her husband Dick, who I believe would be wearing a 30 year pin (if they had one.) Both having returned safely from Barcelona....

I was pleasantly surprised by the appearance of Cliff Kappler, very big with producing the conventions and elections. Long time no see, and I have only pleasant remembrances of this very capable - which brought up "Where is Joe

Angotti ?".. Last time I heard of Joe's whereabouts, was that he had been sent to the London Office.. Now Cliff tells us that Joe just returned from Roumania, where he had been summoned to help the government to show them how to cover the elections there, since they never had that necessity before....

Bambi Tascarella always used to be in the news area, and it was great to see her, still at NBC, now with her own office....

If you don't think time passes quickly, I remember when Camie Alexander first came to work in maintenance at NBC, and now he was a 25 year honoree !! Do you know who Sen Louie is ?? Well you should !. He too maintains the NBC technical plant, a new 25 year vet, as is Mano Khazen, Doug Franey, George Fuzzi - who wasn't there tho- Dominick Plati, and Bill Melanson.....

One of the forty year honorees was Robert Abernethy, the NBC correspondent in Moscow. Sorry they didn't bring him back to NY for the event.



Left to Right
Ed Scanlon, Mary Santangelo, Diane Murphy, Peg McKinley, Bob Wright,
Ariane Mautner, Lilo Rowan, Kerry Goehring, Dr. Sanda Negrea
foto courtesy NBC



Gil Hulsen, Tom Madarasz



Joel Spector and Bob Wright



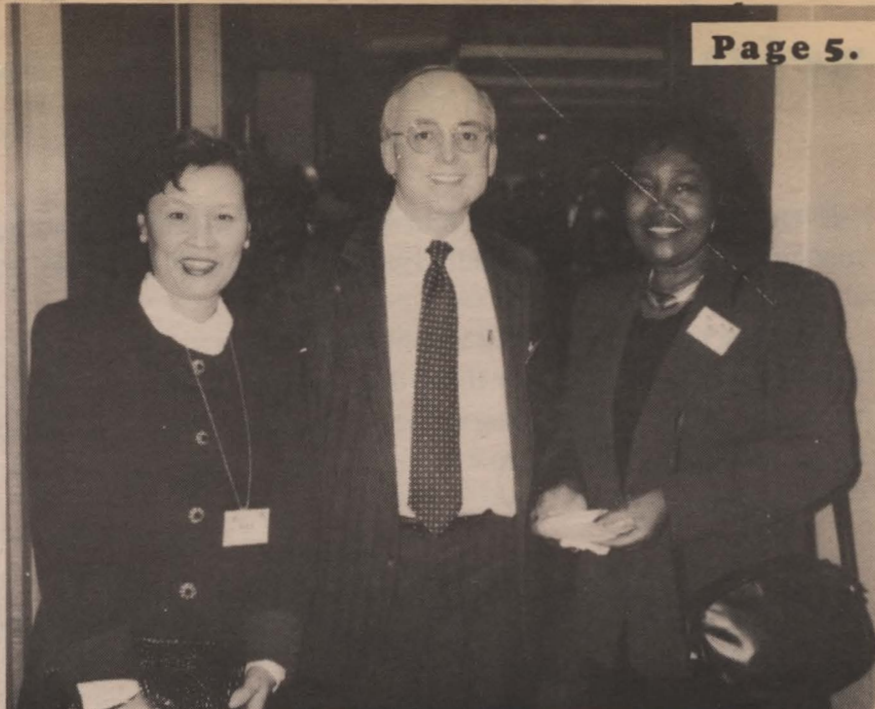
25-year-Bash inductees lining up to have their 1 on 1 chat with Bob Wright.



The Chief and Steve Roskin



Peter Weiss, Bill Jarvis, Sen Louie,
Manoucher (Mano) khazen.



Rita Wang, -?-, Mae Gunn



- ? - Bill Freda, Lou Castro, John Marrin



Rosemary Piezzo-Boday, -?-, Dorothy Cavalcante



Tony Rivera , Heino Ripp, Jerry Ryba



Dominick Plati, Bambi Tascarella,
Mano Khazen.



Ray Smith, Rosemary Piezzo-Boday,
Bill Jarvis, Clarence Willis



Bernie Braun Bill Lockhart, Vito Catalanotto

winter festival

cont'd fm pge 1.

EVENTUALLY CLEARED

Eventually, the famed conductor was cleared to conduct another magnificent concert on the memorable NBC RADIO NETWORK.

And that, said Gloria Clyne was how she began a career in 1942. Maybe you don't remember those days. But one gentleman of fine voice and strong lungs, sitting in the audience, remembered. He is Don Pardo. Who also began working at NBC in the star-studded years of radio, in 1942.

Both Gloria and Don are completing a half-century with the Peacock network this year -- Gloria in the Channel 4 News Room. Don, as always, mellifluous on the air.

And that was in of the moments to remember at the annual meeting of Peacock North, held on December 13 at the Ramada Inn in Clifton, N.J.

It followed three days of the meanest, wildest Nor'easter to smash across the New York region in decades. But, like the mythological mail man, neither storm nor snow nor hurricane winds kept the members from another annual meeting filled with stories of yesterday, and gossip about today, and plans for tomorrow.

A WHITEHOUSE POEM

VIC ROBY told the audience he couldn't ad lib. He'd always read everything. So, he read his own delightful poem about a WHITEHOUSE CHRISTMAS, which you'll read elsewhere in this anniversary edition of Peacock North.



N.B.C. 1953 softball team, sent in by Frank Woodruff (Top Rt.)

More fotos next issue.

Gary Iorio (4 rt., 1 dn.)

Diane LaPorte 3 in fm Lft.



Quiz Kids from Radio days.
foto frm Frank Vierling

Pete Peterson's Message

Page 6.

Sunday Dec. 13, 1992. The big day for our maxi affair! It was over six months since the last time those great faces had joined in a get together in New York at LaMaganette. That day, in May, we had a drenching downpour. But now it was December and what a terrible weather week-end! Was history going to repeat itself?

On Friday Dec. 11th two days before the event, a Nor'easter of great magnitude with pelting rain descended on the area. It dealt a severe blow to all transportation and communications. (I was a victim of a fender bender as someone lost control on a slippery road and accorded the fender of my trusty Volvo).

The next day, snow arrived, over a foot or more coming up from the south to N.J. and up through New England. I thought of Steve Paganuzzi who was braving it coming down from New Hampshire, of Arnie Proner coming up from North Carolina, of many from Pennsylvania. Then a call came from my surprise featured guest speaker, his Connecticut home was awash, he couldn't make it Sunday.

That was it, It was for me, a dark Saturday afternoon. I thought to call it off, the management of the Ramada thought otherwise, food and personnel were hired for our banquet, play or pay. And how would I reach everyone everywhere anyway?

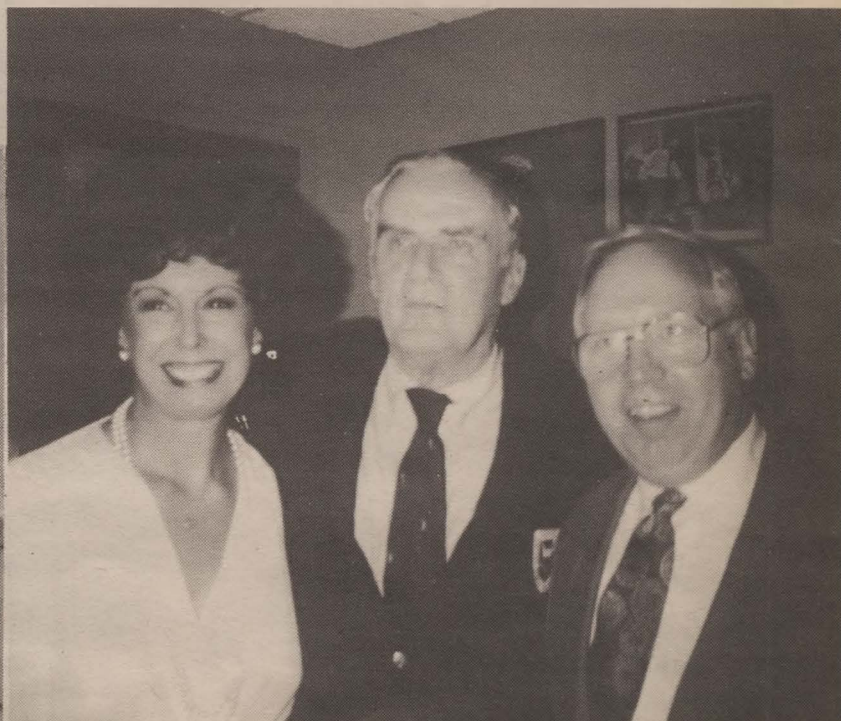
Lord, send some help! And then it came. On Sunday morning, the air seemed to be clearing, and the sun was going to try for it, and NBC MEN AND WOMEN were going to try for it. After all, for years they were from that school of "CAN DO". They were trained by years of early calls, The "TODAY SHOW", the special NEWS events, the emergencies of every day at work and more, that was their training ground! And they did!

Over 100, showed up! Now You have just got to stop and think about that. That,.. is the kind of perseverance and dedication that once was commonplace in our society. It seems distant to many today. There are important pertinacities and parts missing today, as we look and see the differences. Some of those things that have slid away, were cherished ideas and monoliths of OUR TIME.

Driving (in my battered Volvo), I heard the demise of "The MAKE BELIEVE BALLROOM", not only was it ending, but so was WNEW, "11:30 on your dial, tune in all the while, to WNEW, the station that is serving you, N.Y., N.J and CT, too, 24 hours a day that's true, WNEW". Off the air, GONE last week. GONE WNBC, GONE RCA, Going IBM? and more...

What I'm really saying is it was just a great big ball for me to see all those RELIABLE great faces from old times come through!!! Thanks to all of them, and all you dependable NBC'ers!

Happy New Year!! See you in '93. Pete.



Former NBC Engineering V.P. Charles Corcoran
Rita Stipo and Mike Sherlock.

Chusk retired June 92 from WNYC as
Senior Exec VP and Chief Operating Officer

by Dan Gabel

He's staying! He's going! He's talking to ABC! He's talking to CBS!

Well, whatever David Letterman's next move is we will all know it by March 31, 1993 because that's when - it is said -- his NBC contract runs out.

Following the headlines as we put together this column, we were entertained by the variety of conflicting reports: NBC DENIES L's LEAVING, NETWORKS INTENSIFY COURTSHIP, L VISITS ABC... Hey, wait long enough and they'll all depart and later resurface.

That's the case with Tom Snyder, once the host of NBC's "Tomorrow" show -- remember that one, 1973 - 1982? Next, Tom will be the prime time host on a CNBC talk show out of Burbank. Also in the lineup for that series are Phil Donahue, Dick Cavett, and Vladimir Posner who used to be the spokesperson for the Kremlin biggies. Boy! We'll bet Posner is happy communism took a tumble. Now, with the first fee check, he'll be an instant capitalist...

Katie Couric's story from a go-fer at ABC News in 1979 to million-a-year Today anchor isn't a bad rags to riches tale either....

TV Guide did a bit of speculating when it said that Tom Brokaw is getting tired of being in third place in the ratings and that one day he might decide to run for the U.S. Senate. They say he spends a month in Montana and one of the state's present senators, Conrad Burns, is up for re-election next year. Well, we've had George Murphy as California's senator, and what's-his-name, Ronnie, as President...

Arthur Kent, unfortunately tagged "Scud Stud", during the Persian Gulf episode, is freelancing for the BBC, the Canadian Broadcasting System, and a British Newspaper, The Observer, from Yugoslavia. He also did a piece on ABC's "World News Tonight"....

John Chancellor, who had announced last May, that he was retiring in 1993, has signed on to host four one-hour specials on PBS. Jack also plans to write and lecture after departing NBC...

No rest for Willard Scott. NBC has created a 24 hour global weather telephone information service and the phone number is 1-900-WILLARD. It will be cheaper to watch him on TV, since the phone call will cost 95 cents a minute, and you know how those recorded services run on and on before they get to the info you want. And here's a twist -- NBC says it will donate its income to charity...

Correspondent John Cochran will be sleeping with the enemy. He's engaged to Barbara Cohen, chief of CBS' Washington Bureau. Corporate secrets could be at stake if either of them talks in their sleep.

For those who missed it, Mary Alice Williams gave birth to twin girls. She already had a two year old with spouse Mark Haefeli, a tv producer, and should be back to work by the time you read this..

Lea Thompson, one of the long-time pillars at WRC, has joined the net as a correspondent assigned to "Dateline NBC"...

Also aboard, Nina Totenberg, of National Public Radio, will be a contributing correspondent with commentary on "Today", "Nightly News" and "Meet the Press". Totenberg will also continue with her reporting for NPR, where she worked since 1975. Nothing like holding on to a nice security blanket...

To cut costs, HBO and NBC have a deal for the net to replay movies created for HBO that will air there first...

More on the enemy camps: Even Walter Cronkite can be dropped! CBS radio has not renewed Cronkite's 90-second series "Twentieth Century", which was a this day-in-history schtick. Says the 75 year old Cronkite, who certainly is not hurting financially, "I'm not crying bitter

tears over it." The show's producer was among those laid off some time ago. (He's probably crying). And as Walter used to say, "That's the way it is this day in ..."

Down in Macon, Georgia, the station biggies know how to react when the news show ratings plummet. WMGT-TV announced that its "Live at Five", would be cancelled, and its the only news show they have! Three years ago the station dropped its 11pm cast because of low ratings. Explained one station exec, "The realities are that the public made that decision, and we and the community would be better served with entertainment programming because that's what they seem to prefer".. Heck, they can't keep up with the news watching "Current Affair".

And on our local scene at channel Four: Sportscaster Don Gould, who has been in and out over many years despite his competence, is out again on the early morning show. He is not being replaced -- well, that's a consolation..

Call her professor. Jane Hanson has been appointed an adjunct associate professor in journalism at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University....

Chauncey Howell, who is usually too erudite for most audiences, (but we like him), has been named a full time correspondent for "Broadcast; New York", which airs on channel four on Sundays at 12:35 pm...

There was something of a midnight massacre at the local station after the imported new brass came in. News Director Bruno Cohen changed top producers on all the news programs and some two dozen producers and writers were assigned to new jobs. No one, however, was laid off...

As is usual, we are indebted to retired news producer Roy Jesse Silver for the bags of clippings that provide fodder for "At 30 Rock". Tnx, Roy baby... _ _



For those who couldn't come to Radio City
here's the Rock Center Christmas Tree
during the evening of the lighting ceremony



The famous golden statue, with the choir.
Sorry we don't have color (H. fotos)

have found another avocation, he was seen to have called in to the NABET bulletin board a recently. The computer will keep you busy for months, as well as up everynight till 3am. I think I'll have to go back to the Caribbean and do some sailing and loafing again! Anyway Tambo, I'm getting very near to fading out this TV biz very soon. Fifty years should be enough, right ?



Sid & Imogene, stars of my 1st Big Network TV program, Howdy Doody, 1st as TD

RON ADAMS expects to be in Acapulco in February so his wife is now in San Jose, Costa Rica to learn Spanish, so that when they get to Acapulco, they can converse with

friends and their 11.5 year old godson. Ron is still working for the Customs and learning computers a little. (Don't worry Ron, no matter how much you learn, it seems as tho all one knows is a little). He expects to be in New York over Christmas to see their two children....

JOAN ANNETTE, Edison, N.J., writes to Join P.N. Joan started at NBC in 1953 took a buyout and retired in 1990, after being secretary to Ted Mayr, Steve Allen, Alan Courtney, Exec sec. to Larry White, as well as a Production Ass't, Project 20, Financial & Administration Administrator TV Net Sales. Currently she is a Conference Ass't Coordinator at Middlesex County College, responsible for getting major speakers, arranging travel, publicity and the editing of the procedures that are published. Also she volunteers career and job development training; out placement assistance to Project Resource at MCC for workers 55 and older. Joan asks that if anyone might benefit from this service, please let her know. And she retired to relax!...

RUTH STONE writes that after Nov 1st, she will have a Martlton, N.J. address. Ruthe wants to remind you-all that ANN KRAMER is in Albuquerque and ALNETTA KORCHE is in Henderson, Nevada; and Ruthe will be going back and forth to her condo in Scottsdale, Az.. She informs us that JOHN BEHRENDT had a stroke last Jan. and is home going to therapy, hoping soon to be out golfing again. LARRY

ROLLINGTON retired 10/2 after auditing for 26 years.. Ruthe wants to know Sid Chomsky's address in Florida .. ALEIDA ARTZE retired Aug 28th after 28 year. PAT DONEGAN retired in September after 38 years. Ruthe ? she says she'll be happy as can be..(With all that news, seems as tho we have acquired another correspondent for PN. You-all out there, sit down and scribble us a few notes. You'd be surprised how much everyone enjoys hearing about where who is doing what)... NICK BRUNO, now from Deerfield Beach, Fla. is undergoing treatment for a lung ailment. Get well quick Nick, as always, the best.

RAY WEISS recently returned from Barcelona. His letter is elsewhere in this issue; Thanks Ray has for the loan of some Golden Oldie photos, also in this issue. He asked if we could use color photos, and the ans. is yes! But we have to print them in black & white. Color costs a fortune....

MADELAINE WILLIAMS from the RCA/NBC Alumni Club, NYC Chapter sent us their newsletter. In September they had a Paine Webber lady discussing pension Profit sharing plans. In October the planned to have two ladies from the NBC fitness center, 30 Rock speak, answer questions and demonstrate exercising with the group. In November was to book a film buff from School of Visual Arts, who would have a special 45 minute film to show. Future activities? A visit to the Museum of TV & Radio in NYC. Not only that,- cont'd pge 9.

go to column J.



This was YEAR 1979

Please:

Send in Your 1993 Dues Today !

Column J

they held their Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 3rd, at the one and only - "La Maganette".. If you're interested in their activities, contact Ms. Williams at 88-53 62nd Drive, Rego Park, N.Y. 11374....

From **RAY LOCKHART** (ex NBC News Biggie): --- Former long-time NBC News correspondent and Tokyo Bureau Chief **JOHN RICH** spotted on Madison Avenue, in the 60's. He and spouse **Dee-Dee** had just lunched with **EDWIN NEWMAN** and spouse **Reigel**. John is leading the soft life on an island in Maine and takes his boat to Florida when it gets too cold....

Same sunny day, **Stan Losak**, former producer/director for NBC News and the religious unit was sighted at the Magritte exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Stan is working as a public affairs officer for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and is learning Spanish since most recent disasters have occurred in Florida. (Read Ray's article "Lemme show you my operation" re: Medicare in this issue)....

N.B.C. NOT FOR SALE ! That's what John F. Welch, G.E. Chairman says - for now... GE usually doesn't comment on rumors nor deny them. BUT, Welch says "I don't want to say what we're going to do with NBC, because we don't know what we're going to do about NBC. Rumored buyers have been Paramount Communications Inc., Marvin Davis, financier, David Geffen and Barry Diller "entertainment moguls", and yes, Bill Cosby, for a mere pittance of 2 or 3 Billion, with a "B" ! Since the network has fallen to 3rd since the take-over strengthens the rumor, for Welch has repeatedly said he doesn't want GE to be involved in any business that isn't in 1st or 2nd place. They,GE, just sold their aerospace division to Martin Marietta, since it wasn't 1st or 2nd.. Yet Welch says that NBC can become first again !....

Column K.

Another note from the NABET Computer Billboard where you can leave & recall messages : **Bob Juncosa** remarks, "after searching for a new camcorder -- I can't forget the first TV systems at the colonial theater, when one camera, console, SPU's, sync generators, monitors/scopes and tape recorder wouldn't fit into my kitchen, and now it all fits into the palm of my hand, and the pictures are better!".... That billboard is growing. **Scotty Schachter Dick Daniels, Fred Wagner, Bill Miller, Joe Kolb** now peek in... **Sid Chomsky** notes in the billboard that **Nick Bruno** has been hospitalized a few times and his son says that it would be a great morale booster to Nick is his friends and former associates would send a get well note to : **Nick Bruno, 400 N. Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach, FL. 33441**. Take good care of yourself Nick! **Howie Atlas** mentions that on Nov 18th: we had one of our mini-lunches at the Marriott 12 attended: - **Bill Delannoy, Walter Dibbins, Arnie Dick, Frank Gaeta, Jack Keegan, Joe McShane, Wes Paulson, Tony Romeo, Murray Vecchio and Artie Zarakas**. Everyone said they had a good time. And Howie says "I enjoyed it". Sure looks like the retirees everywhere do miss each other and like to get together. Sounds good to me! ...

GEORGE HEINEMAN sent Pete voluminous pages of what George has been up to. Well try to consolidate some of it for the next issue,. A quick look shows him very active as a professor of TV these days....

ED & LINDA ROSSI writes that in September, they sold their house in California, and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. They joined the Arizona Film, Theater and TV Assoc. and in their publication, they found **BOB GARTHWAITE**, who was an assoc producer with Special Projects group. Now Bob is an actor doing stage productions and comm'l's in Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Ed & **BILL AULEPP** (who went from tech-ops to bigger

and better things) saw Garthwaite in a production; says he is a great singer/actor... Ed asks if we know any other NBC'ers living in the Scottsdale area, they'd love to know. Their new address is: **Ed & Linda Rossi, 7719 East Onyx Court, Scottsdale, AZ. 85258..Tel: 602:951-2858...** The Rossi's wish Merry Christmas and all the best to all, in the New Year.....

PAT & DAN GRABEL just returned from a delightful week in London, attending a surprise party for his brother-in-law and visiting about. The upon returning to the states, they hopped up to Vermont for some skiing with friends there. Guess it's time now for someplace warm....

TOM LYMAN has returned to the Ham Radio net again, (K1EAN) after being in the hospital taking care of his heart. He's going back to a more athletic activity, skating (on Ice). He's been doing that for quite a few years, keeps himself young.

RICK BERMAN has retired to Virginia onto a farm. The other day, Rick came booming in through my short wave speaker. Rick had studied and gotten his license, and has joined the NBC Ham net. Congrats Rick

GENE MARTIN is a grandpop again, and spends his days going back to his youth, and helping daughter take care of their now 3 boys. And he still remembers how to put on diapers and all that stuff. He's even pushed the envelope for golf playing further into the winter months...

DAVE GOULD at the Bash, sees **LEO FARRENKOFF** at ABC. Leo is still working the soaps at ABC.....

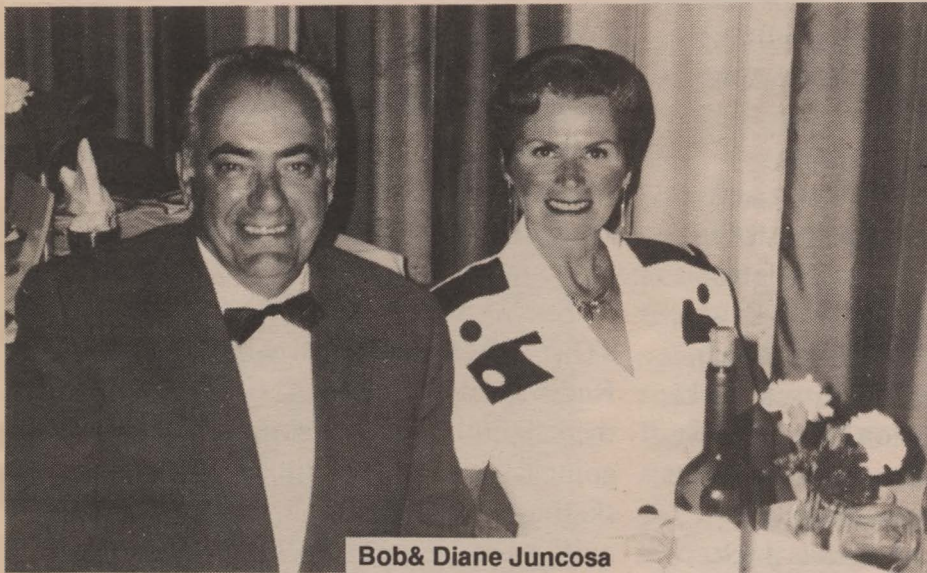
DON KIVELL attended the Winter Festival. He was thinner than I remembered him at 30 Rock.. Also had a fleeting "hello" moment with him in Barcelona as I passed thru the complex. Seem'd to be enjoying the old timers..**Late People pg. 24.**



This was YEAR 1980.... Hope you all sounded as great as you looked !

Share a trip around Europe with Diane & Bob Juncosa

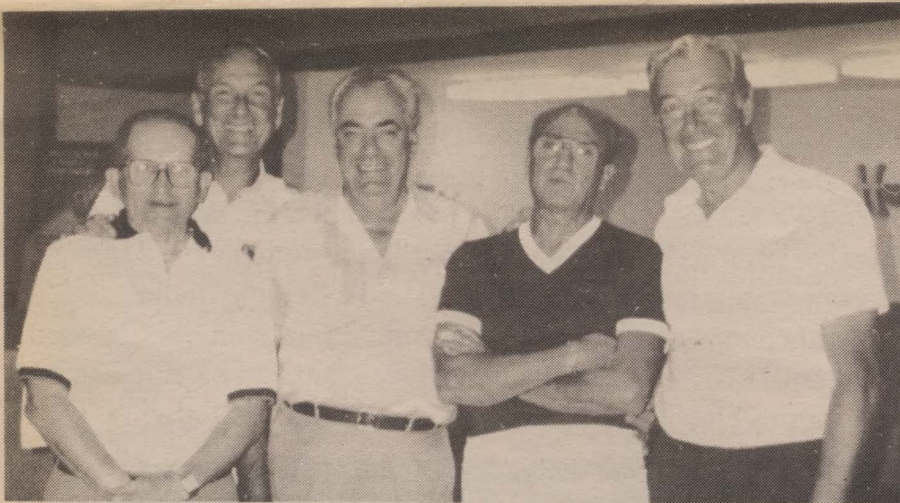
In September-October 1992, Diane & Robert Juncosa (video) now living in Foresthill, California, just west of Reno, took this fabulous trip of a lifetime. We are pleased that Diane & Bob wanted to share their experiences with us all.



Bob & Diane Juncosa

In the fall of '92 we had the opportunity to put together one of those all inclusive trips that one fancies but never gets to achieve. Visiting family and former friends plus a cruise to many fascinating places was a fulfilling experience. For those who can't or would like to, we would like to share this experience and recommendation.

Our first stop was in the Boston area where we visited with our daughter Linda who "nurses" at St. Elizabeth Hospital and exploited her friend George Succi through his knowledge of computers. Fortunately I came upon a brand new golf driving range that allowed guests to practice free until they opened two days later. Never hit them better but paid the price with blisters. We managed to get our eastern lobster and steamers fix which is was mandatory requirement.



-->Howie Atlas, Arnie Dick, Bob Juncosa, Murray Vecchio, Frank Gaeta

In New York we met Howie Atlas at a mini luncheon and had a memorable time with Arnie Dick, Dave Gould, Scotty Schachter, Murray Vecchio, Frank Gaeta, Bill Delanoy and Eddie Klien. Thanks for the hospitality, guys.

In New Jersey we spent 4 days in Rumson with son Gary and family and meeting a new grand-daughter. Then another 8 days in Smoke Rise, Kinnelon N.J. with another son and family and also enjoying the christening of another new granddaughter. We also managed a reunion among friends and former neighbors from our days in New Jersey including Bill Hoyle and family. New York City certainly looks changed with every visit.

Flying on to Europe we paused 5 days in Seville, Spain to take in the world's fair EXPO '92. I was a very nice visit with interesting sites but unfortunately they grossly underestimated the number of tourists visitors and most of the major attractions were inaccessible due to prohibitive delays.

We visited Barcelona, the home of the '92 Olympics and there too, 8 weeks later with no events taking place they were still entertaining tourists at the Olympic sites! From the diversity of its elements Barcelona is probably one of the most varied and enjoyable cities in Spain

All through Europe we found heavier than normal crowds. Quite interesting is the Pueblo Espanol, a park of considerable size containing reproductions of many famous buildings, plazas, etc. depicting the sites to be seen throughout Spain. Here we boarded a cruise ship for the first stop on the French Riviera

where we toured Monaco and Princess Grace's Palace. This city is one of the most picturesque settings overlooking the Mediterranean and its marina harboring a collection of exquisite and elegant yachts.

The next stop found us touring Rome but the Vatican, the Roman ruins, the Colosseum, and other spots were too much to savor in such a short one day stint. In Messina, Sicily the highlight was a trip to Taormina and a very impressive ancient Greek Amphitheater of the third century B.C. The following day we were in the port city of Katakolon, Greece to visit the site of the first Olympic Games in 776 B.C. The Greek island of Santorini is picture of beauty, the remnants of a volcano and its bay is the flooded caldera. Seven hundred feet above by cable car or mule is the stunning town of Thera with its dazzling white houses perched on the edge of the cliffs.

The next port of call was Piraeus/Athens, Greece and a visit to the Acropolis. Here the Parthenon, several temples and two ancient Roman theaters taxes the imagination recounting these historical ages. By coincidence I visited a US Navy Cruiser on tour of the Mediterranean where forty years ago almost to the day I had the identical assignment in Athens!, maintaining the our US presence in Europe. It was a most moving experience. Visiting the bowels of the combat armament was fascinating but the level of today's technology was hard to conceive. From Athens we sailed to the island of Rhodes and its impressive walled city and to a picturesque hideaway in the village of Lindos. Bring your bathing suit, at least the bottom half!

Cruising south the cities of Alexandria and Port Said in Egypt are much different, surprisingly large and commercial, but the ravages of today's political and social conflicts are evident in the people, buildings and life in general. We drove along the Suez Canal, and on to Cairo which is also large, crowded and seemingly noisy but historically very captivating with their mosques, temples, the Cemetery of the "Living Dead" (homeless), and especially the Pyramids at Giza. I am sorry I had to bypass the camel ride to the pyramids, only about 500 yards, but with all the "hawkers havoc in the paddock" I couldn't risk my questionable back and future in golf for this endeavor. This engineering mystery is most fascinating. Their National Museum of Antiquities houses a fine collection of relics of another age and civilization.

Ashod, Israel and a tour of Jerusalem is a different experience. We found much less of an arid countryside rather somewhat like areas in the USA but with any knowledge of biblical events it was by far the emotional highlight of our trip. To be standing on the very site of many of Christendom's historical happenings was most reverent and impressive. The church of The Nativity, Holy Sepulcre, the Arab and Jewish sections of Old Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall, the Knesset and modern Jerusalem are but a few of the stops that made this a most fascinating day.

The island of Samos, Greece is a small retreat with a quaint and serene harbor village, Pathagorion for you trigonometry buffs, and ideal for a relaxing three hour stroll. A few hours sail to the east is Kusadasi, Turkey. This city is typically turkish with its many shops and markets and 45 minutes away lies one of the world's greatest achaeological sites, the ancient city of Ephessos. This dynasty of Asia Minor, centuries B.C. was rebuilt and inhabited 5 times, the latest in the Roman era from 200 B.C. to 700 A.D. and contains remnants of temples of the many luminaries of its time plus streets of marble and other structures typifying a city of grandeur, including a stadium seating over 24,000 people.

In addition to the many marvelous ports of call we also shared in the pleasures of shipboard life, scrumptious meals, shows and activities. However due to the crammed itinerary relaxation was not a feature and perhaps was an asset in limiting the ever expanding girth. Returning to the USA with a layover in Paris was too short a pause to relish its flavor. An additional five pounds, a drained wallet and a good case of Jet Lag from traversing nine time zones are the negative after effects of a marvelous adventure..... Diane & Bob Juncosa

Hot Dang!,

Keep those Letters Coming !

Lighting Stories Fm The Past

Page 11.

by bill klages

NUMBER ONE OF A SERIES

Last week, during a short midweek vacation in San Francisco, Julie and I attended a performance of "La Forza Del Destino" at the Civic Center Opera House. Seeing the building brought back memories of the "Perry Como Show" televised live from the Opera House many years ago when I was with NBC. I vividly recalled the control room that we set up in the hallway, an Opera House representative in constant attendance to insure that we did not scratch the walls or deface the building. There was Heino Ripp, Irving Messing, Stu MacGregory and all the other Perry Como roadies. I was very disappointed to see that my two follow spot platforms were not still set up in the middle of the orchestra. I also could not see Frank Gallop, sitting at the edge of a balcony box, introducing a very young Perry Como not in living color, but in living black and white.

It is fun to recall those days at NBC.

One of my favorite stories is about an incident that took place during my first season as a lighting director. CBS had revived live dramatic shows with its "Playhouse 90" and had gained a large viewing audience. NBC, not to be outdone, immediately planned a live 90 minute bi-weekly series to be called "Playwrights '56". NBC hired Fred Coe to produce this series. He was chosen because of his success producing "Philco Playhouse" in the early days of live television, just a few years before. The idea was that he would reassemble his stable of writers and directors for this new production to insure its success. A single sponsor, Pontiac, had been signed, and Brooklyn One was available. Larry Elikann, who Fred remembered as a Cameraman from Philco, was chosen as Technical Director. However, no lighting Director had been assigned, all the dramatic show star LDs, Allan Posage, Billy Knight, Leo Farrenkopf all had full schedules.

When the subject of a lighting director was finally addressed by Fred Coe, Larry suggested that he knew a person that had never lighted a television show, but was destined to be the "best in the business". *Fred bit, and I was in.* Now, I had the opportunity to show everybody how it was done. Nothing could stop me. I would make the transition from videoman to the equal of Billy Knight in one step. In my mind, there was no reason that I would not be an immediate success as the lighting director for the largest and most important dramatic show that NBC had ever produced.

Considering the circumstances and my lack of experience, thing went very well for the first few shows. My head had expanded to huge proportions. I must have been quite impossible to live with. Then it happened.

Horton Foote was to adapt William Faulkner's "Sound and the Fury" for television. The cast was to include Lillian Gish, Franchot Tone, Janice Rule, and Ethel Walters. Vincent Donohue was to direct. Otis Riggs had designed a complete plantation house, inside and out which would fill one half of Brooklyn One, and a large carnival set that filled the other half of the studio. This was to be our greatest effect to date.

There was only one rub. The show would load into the studio one day later than our normal schedule. In my innocence, I did not see this as any real problem and, after the dry rehearsal, went out to Brooklyn to get started on what I hoped was to be my greatest triumph in my short career as a lighting director.

The studio was in shambles. Everyone was in a panic. Nothing had gone right. The sets were behind schedule and it wasn't very long that lighting was behind as well and losing ground fast.

During this period I remember Claude Traverse, our Associate Producer, known affectionately as the "black cloud", asking "did I have a moment". He asked if I recalled mention of the fireflies required for the opening scene. "The what", I replied. "You know, fireflies". I said "that's a special effect...have them make the effect". He left.

Meanwhile, the setup went from bad to worse. I began to lose a little of my confidence and began to inwardly question my ability to cope with this mess I was in. For every step forward, It seemed that it took one backward. I couldn't get anything lighted.

A few hours passed.

Again, Claude approached and announced that the firefly effect had indeed arrived and was in the hamper "over there". In order not to waste a moment from my immediate lighting problems, I rushed over to the hamper and anxiously raised the lid.

What I saw was two reels of twisted pair wire, a bag containing at least 1000 "grain of wheat" lamps, and set of home built switches mounted on a piece of wood. The Special Effects department had delivered something very special indeed, a complete "do it yourself" firefly effect kit!

Noticing a look of desperation on Claude's face, I then suggested getting two extra electricians whose sole purpose in life would be to assemble the firefly effect. He agreed.

More time passed. Obstacle after obstacle presented themselves. We still seemed to making no progress.

Claude approached again, this time to announce the arrival of the two firefly experts. I looked at the first one. Not too promising, certainly elderly enough to be my great- grandfather. Then, I breathed a sigh of relief, the second electrician was younger and had a inquisitive, bright look.

"Do you know what fireflies look like?", I asked

"Yes, I do", he replied, "in fact, I have aspirations of becoming a lighting director, and could you..."

Without losing a beat, I said, "demonstrate your knowledge of fireflies, and an interview with Ray Davis is guaranteed". I then sent the lighting hope of the future and his father to the basement hallway to put the effect together.

Finally, we were on camera. I was in trouble right from the outset. Not one sequence was lighted with any degree of

completeness. It was terrible. The lack of setup time and my shortcomings were now becoming very apparent.

Prior to the run-thru, Claude reminded me again of the importance of the fireflies and inquired whether we would see them during the first run-thru. I visited my two associates in their basement hideaway. They were working at a feverish pace, surrounded by hundreds of wire loops, in complete disarray. It was also evident that we would not see our fireflies for the first run-thru.

A visit to the underground duo prior to the second run-thru (after a disastrous first run-thru lighting-wise) was also to no avail. After assuring the younger electrician that his career as lighting director was only one firefly effect away, I returned to the control room for the second run- thru. It was worse than the previous one.

Needless to say, my firefly team did not make the dress that rehearsal either.

However, My primary concern were with the extensive list of lighting problems that had accumulated. This situation was further complicated by the arrival of the headers and ceiling pieces for the sets after the dress rehearsal. I had only the one hour before the air show to fix everything. And now, whole sets were in darkness due to the added set pieces.

In the midst of this chaos, who should arrive out of their cellar workshop to make this picture complete, but my ambitious friend and his elderly associate, ready to install. Well, at least something would be right.

I said, "The fireflies go in those bushes over there, I will meet you on the headset just before airtime."

We were on the air! Fred Coe's control room's were very, very quiet. Anyone with something to say said it in very hushed tones. When I looked over to our director, Vinnie Donahue, I noticed he was slowly wringing his hands, a side effect, I guessed, of his intense concentration.

He softly said "fade up". There was no turning back.

there it was, a pictorial masterpiece, our plantation house at dusk. The camera moved in slowly. We could see Ethel Waters through the kitchen window, humming an old spiritual to herself.

Vinnie called for night sounds.

Aggie, our sound effects man, responded with the sound of crickets.

Vinnie said "fireflies".

The moment had arrived. Getting my mouth as close as I could to the headset transmitter so as to not disturb the tranquillity of our control room, I said "fireflies, GO".

Immediately one of the bushes went ablaze. It extinguished at once, and another bush was ablaze, only to be replaced by a third. It extinguished and the first bush ignited again, then the second, and third ...The pattern continued. The effect was like Times Square.
cont'd pge. 12.

Letters

Aloha!

by helen & ray diPrima

At long last - Hawaii! ! We'd thought about it, and talked about it, but not until October of this year did we actually visit the Island of Maui for nine days.

We regret, now, that we did not travel to Hawaii many years ago, when the islands must have been even more beautiful - without the inundation of condos, hotels and malls. At this point, despite the awesome combination of mountains and ocean, we felt that comparing climate and flora, it could almost be Florida with mountains.

Of course you can enjoy the natural beauty of Maui by taking breath-holding mountainous rides. One such spot was Needle Mountain, in Iao. Here the mountains and waterfall are unforgettable.

We rented a condo with kitchen facilities, so we were able to experience supermarket shopping. Never before has the trite travel advice "take half the clothing and twice the money" - been so true. Food prices on Maui are staggering! For instance, bananas were 99 cents a pound. No loaf of bread is less than \$2.69. Naturally, it follows that the restaurants are also expensive. Even lunch at Denny's can cost about \$18. for just sandwiches and iced tea! !

One of the most beautiful experiences we ever had was spent attending mass in a local Catholic church. The young priest came down the aisle - in bright robes and wearing a lei of fresh flowers. Rather than an organ in the rear balcony, there war a Hawaiian family p[laying a variety of instruments indigenous to Hawaii. The mass was really ecumenical, and the priest had us all meeting, hugging and even kissing the people around us. We told him later that this was the most joyous religious service we had ever attended. At the close of the mass, three very young girls, not yet in their teens, and properly dressed for church, did a hula dance for us. If only church - going could always be so exhilarating.

And of course, we enjoyed the natives of the island, who were always courteous and helpful. And, at least while visiting, we adopted their philosophy: **HANG LOOSE !** (No wonder my son Robbie has chosen to stay in Hawaii. H.)

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

DICK DUDLEY'S TRIVIA

Page 12.



**Dick Dudley's 1940 alter ego,
From Who's Blue? on the Blue Network**

ALTER EGOS

Do you know the actors and actresses who created the folowing character? ?
THEN MATCH THEM UP !

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| A. Willie Lump Lump | 1. Jackie Gleason |
| B. Professor Wolfgang | 2. William Bendix |
| C. Geraldine Jones | 3. Shirley |
| D. Colonel Sherman Potter | 4. Red Skelton |
| E. Lily Munster | 5. June Taylor |
| F. Oscar Madison | 6. Flip Wilson |
| G. Della Street | 7. Tony Randall |
| H. The Poor Soul | 8. Sid Caesar |
| I. Chester A. Riley | 9. Yvonne de Carlo |
| J. Princess Summerfall - Winter Spring... | 10. Jack Klugman |
| K. Felix Ungra | 11. Barbara Hale |
| L. Hazel | 12. Harry Morgan |

ANSWERS on Page **13.**

Klages Old Lighting Stories

cont'd fm pge **11.**

My enlightened young electrician had circuited each bush as a "firefly". No amount of screams on the headset were successful in extinguishing the explosive burning bushes. The cycle of burning bushes continued.

Unfortunately, my troubles had only begun. I remember one particular memorable moment that took place in the plantation house main hallway.

In this particular scene, not only was I plagued by a multitude of microphone shadows but at one particular time there was not only a shadow of the entire boom arm but also the operator, the pedestal, and the pusher as well.

I recall what Claude Traverse said to me many months after about the shows's lighting. "Bill, when it was good , it was very good, when it was bad....". He never completed the sentence.

Bill Klages and his wife, Julie (Light), live in Hollywood (right under the "H" of the Hollywood sign). Bill left NBC in 1970. The Klages Group, an association of Entertainment Lighting Designers, was formed in 1983 and at the present time has nine full time designers on staff. Julie was an Associate Director for NBC in New York during the same period as Bill. Over the years, they both have won my admiration and respect as professionals and love as persons. (H.)

JOIN PEACOCK NORTH
application on last page



In Chicago, RUSS TORNEBENE (radio) and wife Audrey greet DON PARDO who was in town for the Radio Hall of Fame induction ceremony in mid October.

Russ's daughter Lynn was on the invitation committee that invited Pardo. Don started in radio at WJAR, Providence in 1938 and Russ joined NBC in Washington in 1951 as a tv and radio news writer. When Russ went into air work, Don often introduced him.

Among those who were inducted: Casey Kassem, (the "Top 40" DJ), Don Ameche, and former ABC major domo Leonard Goldenson. On the dais but not collecting honors that day were Paul Harvey and Les Tremayne.



Seven of NBC's most distinguished correspondents gathered in vice president Richard Nixon's Washington office in 1955 along with Bill McAndrew, the network news chief, for a photo op perhaps even before the term "Photo op" was created. From left to right: Frank Bourgholtzer, Leif Eid, Edwin Newman, William McAndrew, Nixon, James Robinson, Joseph C. Harsch, Irving R. Levine and Welles Hangen.

Their postings included: Bourgholtzer, White House, Paris and Moscow corespondent; Eid, Paris and Washington, D.C.; Newman, Paris, Rome and New York based anchorman; Robinson, Asia; Harsch, London and Washington; Levine, Rome and Moscow, and long-time, still working economics correspondent in Washington; and Hangen, Asia, who was killed in Cambodia. Not the least, Bill McAndrew was network news chief and WRC-TV station manager in Washington when her was shifted in the '50s to New York, to go up to lead network news to prominence. He died in the late '60s. (Also deceased, Eid and Robinson). At that time, Nixon had the world in his hands,....well, if not the world, certainly a globe!

photos courtesy Russ Tornebene

ANSWERS to
Dick Dudley's
ALTER EGO'S
TRIVIA Quiz



- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| A. Willie Lump Lump | 4. Red Skelton |
| B. Professor Wolfgang | 8. Sid Caesar |
| C. Geraldine Jones | 6. Flip Wilson |
| D. Colonel Sherman Potter | 12. Harry Morgan |
| E. Lily Munster | 9. Yvonne DeCarlo |
| F. Oscar Madison | 7. Tony Randall |
| G. Della Street | 11. Barbara Hale |
| H. The Poor Soul | 1. Jackie Gleason |
| I. Chester A. Riley | 2. William Bendix |
| J. Princess Summerfall - Winter Spring... | 5. June Tyler |
| K. Felix Ungra | 10. Jack Klugman |
| L. Hazel | 3. Shirley |

Vox P.N. Populi: Heard at the Dec 13th Winter Festival

by heino ripp

The big news in the PETERSON household, is a brand new grand-daughter, born on Nov. 15. Now Pete and Peg have 4 beautiful grand-daughters, ages 7 - (the leader of the pack), others ages 1 1/2 - and 1 - and last one 4 weeks old. Needless to say the Petersons do a lot of baby sitting these days... But they love it!

LOIS and FRANK VIERLING off to Tucson to enjoy Christmas with their 8 month old grand-daughter our first grandchild. Frank says it's great to see so many turn out for the Dec. 13th Brunch - despite the terrible weather these past two days..

GARRY & DOROTHY IORIO want to thank the Petersons and all who worked on the Dec. 13 affair. It's a good feeling when old friends meet. Their news is that, in Florida, they moved. Sold their home and will try something new. They will rent at 100 Village Blvd in West Palm Beach. No phone yet, but the apt. is 1201, in the Glenmoors until May 1st.

DOROTHEA & BILL deLANNOY: Have enjoyed our second trip to Germany! But it is good to be back with our grandchildren. Three in Number. Hope to see you all in Florida soon...

VOX POP Col. B
FRAN and GEORGE PETERS will be leaving for Florida soon for 3 to 4 months. Early in March they go to Aruba for two weeks. Hope to be back in time for Florida Retirees meeting.. Great affair here at Ramada Inn on Dec. 13th. Thanks Peg & Peter!...

ELMER GORRY: Ho - Ho - Ho ! Merry Christmas. Off to New Mexico for Christmas. See you in the spring, with the help of God..

A little sad news from ROD RODAMISTA - the passing of Anthony Hennig and Paul Murphy. I know a lot of you have fond memories of both.

GINNY SEIPT: "Still struggling to find freelance work now that my TODAY freelance gig has ended. Would consider getting out of the business if I could find a job elsewhere! Great to see you all. - Here's to the New Year !"

JIM SCHAEFFER: Retired in Vermont on a beautiful lake - cut and split my share of firewood to help me stay in shape. Also have two grandchildren I don't see enough of. Have truly enjoyed my first visit with Peacock North! (P.S. Jim didn't look old enough to be retired, or being away from 30 Rock is not detrimental to one's health. H.)

VOX POP Col. C
SCOTTY CONNAL: Kind of retired, packaging shows for NBC, CBS, USA, ESPN. Six grandchildren in the burner, six grandchildren living in Greenwich, Conn.. Get-togethers, GREAT!
BILL FLOOD: Retired in Huntington, Long Island. Just finished my 21st year with the Miss America Pageant. Still house-boating on Long Island Sound.
DELORES TAYLOR PARYLAK made it to the Ramada Winter Festival. Despite the snow and rain, and all the way from Rutherford, N.J., (Dolores resides about a mile or so of away from the Ramada, and we're glad you came.) She says: It was great to see RITA STIPO and RAY LAFFERTY fm Development Engineering. This summer Janice Abbott visited me. She worked for Tom Phelan and Jerry Sellars in Radio Engineering, in the 50's. Janice is happily retired in Clemson, S.C.. (Now that we know exactly what Janice is doing, what are you up to Delores? H.)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Fm VIC ROBY ROBY:
When peacocks and fezhens are all gathered together -
It's like a convention of birds of a feather.
You renew old friendships .. then say good-byes -
Then you feel overwhelmed at how fast time flies!!
(-- go down and left to Col D.---)

VOX POP Col D.
DICK SWICKER: Continuing as cabinet maker and wood turner. Teach and demonstrate woodworking here and in England. Family fine.

BILL HANRAHAN: I escaped in "84" and finally was able to make this re-union. This is our first of these - Ruth & I have a very good reason to make the next celebration - the fond memories of this one. Good cheer and good Health to all.

PAT and ROGER TUTTLE: Well the Tuttlés are still on the farm - anyone want to buy it?? Roger I guess, since he's sold his sailboat, Rog's not about to sit and watch the grass grow, so-- . Now he's going to build an airplane. A "Kolb Ultralite", carries two people, takes off and lands on a farm, and Pat wants to take flying lessons. How about that! Why don't the rest of the PN pilots get together and each build one and have a Fly-In re-union at Tuttlés Farm??? (But, last time I heard, in N.J. you can't land anywhere except an officially designated airport. However in Pa. I landed a helicopter on a farm field and behind a coffee shoppe. Great sport - Hey Proner! Where's the gyrocopter these days? Good luck Roger, you're getting me enthused about flying again...

VOX POP Col E
JOHN LOUGH: (K2JQC amateur radio call), came down with Jane, the Mrs. from Brewster, Cape Cod, braving the winter snowdrifts and sleet. Their daughter Pamela graduated from Mt. Holyoke college and is working for the Dept. of Environmental Protection doing spill remedies etc. The Lough's expect to visit the Florida Retirees get together this March. Hope the weather is better to travel than it was here...

CAROL & STEVE PAGANUZZI: Also braved the winter storm and made it from New Hampshire. (And I got stuck in my driveway in 14" of snow, only 40 miles from the Ramada). Steve says he enjoyed seeing all the old friends and co-workers at NBC...

NANCY & JERRY CUDLIPP: Spent the month of Sept. touring Switzerland, France & Italy with Joe and Madelene Gilligan (now residing in New Hampshire)(Another New Hampshire-ite) also with Florence and Hans Schmidt (now residing in Zurich, Switzerland.)
The first week we took a canal trip through Brittany (rented our own boat and ran it ourselves), and had a marvelous time.
After that, the Gilligans and the Cudlipps rented a car and toured Northern France, visiting Mont St.

VOX POP Col F.
Michel and other interesting areas around there. (Isn't Mt. St. Michel the island with a castle, to which you can only get to at low tide, when the road isn't covered with water?? Musn't overstay your visit, cause it's tough to get home at high tide.
Next we drove to the Cote d'Azur, staying at St. Tropez for 3 days. Enjoyed the beaches (including the nude beaches!) plus the magnificent dock area where the fantastic yachts tie up. (At Million dollars & up!) Got some good video tape of same. (When's the viewing, Jerry?)
Next on to Pisa, Florence and Rome, with stops in between. In all, we had a good time, some frustrations, but that is to be expected. Last comment: Costs in Europe are out of sight!! (Think our's are catching up to that very fast . Glad to see you made it back safe and sound.)
BUDDY SHADEL: His son in law, after a stint at the War College in Newport, R.I., was graduated, and has been assigned to the Pacific Fleet Command Staff at -- yep, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, now promoted to a Captain, and a tour of two or three years. Naturally daughter had to be coaxed to go to Hawaii,(a lie) and Bud & Dottie just hate to go to Hawaii.. Another big lie. So when is your flight leaving? Buddy? ?

The Shadel's grand-daughter, Molly, who was diagnosed with leukemia 3 years ago, has successfully completed her treatment and remains in remission with a 70-80 % chance for complete recovery in 2 or more years. We all wish her well!...

BILLY GOETZ: Dee and I intent to spend the month of January 1993 in sunny Michigan, awaiting the birth of their latest grandchild. (Why couldn't our kids live in Florida???)

IRENE & ARNIE PRONER: Since our move to North Carolina, we have been enjoying life among people who, like us, are transplants from up North. The natives down in N.C. keep telling us to "Go Home Yankee". Lots of new hobbies Bungee jumping etc. You'all come on down!! (Thanks for coming up, sorry that the storms cut off your hotel's water supply on your visit, wish we could have talked longer. H.)

MIKE & LOIS CONNOR: Residing in New City in Rockland County. Since leaving NBC in 1991, Mike has moved into the financial planning field with emphasis in investment and life insurance. He's a registered agent with Mass. Mutual and has client basis throughout the New York Metropolitan area...Enjoy your retirement Mike!

HELEN & RAY diPRIMA: Pete said that everyone has a "storm" story - here's ours.

For 36 years, we've watched our pine tree in the center of our patio grow - to 60 feet! It became a victim to the storm and toppled over - luckily not onto our deck, but the roots were so large, that it tore up the whole patio, and broke two fences. Hopefully, we will have it cleared up before we leave for Florida after Christmas..(Read about Helen & Ray's Hawaii trip elsewhere in the newsletter.)

IRENE & JACK KEEGAN: We survived the storm that hit Long Island. We got thru without any losses, including power. Of course the beaches on North & South shore were devastated...

MORTY and MILLICENT ARONOFF were travelling this summer - six countries in three weeks - and 90 to 100 miles per hour on the autobahn to get from here to there. First seeing Andy in Paris, then Thun in Switzerland, to Milan, Venice, straight through Austria (they don't accept Visa on autoroute service stations) to Prague and Frankfurt to come home. And we're staying for a while !!!

RENEE AND HERB OXMAN: Recovering from a torn Achilles tendon surgery. (from tennis, not skiing) Figures

he'll be golfing by March. Then April in Paris, visiting Renee's family. Also plan a trip to San Fran in May and a round of golf at Pebble Beach. Finally to Norfolk, Va. this fall, for a reunion of shipmates from 1943.

Note: those with computers with modems, I'm on GENIE. Send E Mail to H. Oxman.

HANK HEUSTIS: is anxiously awaiting the birth of his first grandchild in February. His daughter Michele and her husband Mickey are residents of New Jersey, so Hank will be "commuting" back and forth from his Long Island home come next year. (Hope you have a lot of patience Hank. Not for the baby, but for the commuting - it's rough out there !)...

LEN GORDON: First time here, Been away 32 years. A pleasure and delight to see everyone.

GEORGE HOOPER: After 38 years, mostly in research - moved to a research supplier, Statistical Research Inc.

PAT DONEGAN: This is the first Peacock North event I've attended.. I'm sorry I waited so long and am looking forward to future get togethers...

TONY NELLE: Hopes that by the time

this note gets printed, he'll know what shape his boat is in. It was hauled out of the water for winter storage in New Jersey, but hasn't heard from the marina. Pray for good news...

JACK DURKIN: Working part time in a computer store in Palmerton, Penna. Video editing in the evenings. Weddings etc... But just enjoying country life in general! (Jack retired as a super, natural video man. Great looking super pictures seemed to come through his hands, naturally!- H.)

Jack reveals that T.D. Bill (W.P.) Kelly is suffering from Alzheimers. He's in Pa.

CARL ROHRER: Hope some of you will try 3rd Wednesday afternoon RCA/NBC Club meetings on 55th Street, just West of Fifth Ave. 1:30 pm - 3:00 PM, Presbyterian Church...

Carl has been travelling some in '92. Got to Bermuda, Seattle/Vancouver and L.A..

This Peacock North wing-ding is being enjoyed by a big turnout - after "the Storm of The Century", thanks to the hard work of the Petersons and other planners. Pete is always "hanging by his thumbs, having to commit X number of people to be attending, to the Ramada, hoping that in fact they will appear, for the piper still has to be paid if he doesn't

get a quota. Luckily, the quota minimum was passed as the later reservations came in and Pete breathed a big sigh of relief. It's not easy when you are on top...

JIM SUNDER: Still keeps busy shooting film (?tape). Still editing summer Olympic scenes from Barcelona. Last September, drove through Switzerland for 3 weeks.

NOTE: Jim talked to Johnny Andrews last week. John wanted to come to the get-together, but he's just out of the hospital with a heart problem. Why not send him a card at:

320 E 58 Street, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10022.

He was quite tickled to find P.N., and was very excited with the thought of these reunions. You all made his day.

So Johnny get well quickly, we're thinking of you...

BOBBY FRARACCIO is on his way to Florida, to relax at his condo for a few months.

DICK EDMONDSON AND HARRY MUSSELMAN made it to the Ramada Bash O.K., both looking well.

Greeting everyone with smiles as retirees entered, were PEG PETERSON, LOIS VIERLING AND FRAN PETERS

PETERS, pasted your name tag on and sent you off into a few hours at the memory bank...

Congratulations are in order for GLORIA CLYNE who spoke about the present conditions at 30 Rock. Both she and DON PARDO started to work at NBC FIFTY years ago, in 1942! How about that Gracie ?? And still going strong!.. Gloria spoke about what's it like to be at 30 Rock these days. Makes one happy to be a retiree..

PETE PETERSON brought everyone up to date, happy to see this big a crowd despite the big blow and high tides in the area...

HORACE RUIZ came in with his missus, his son and his wife. Horace didn't go to Barcelona this time, cause he says he's retired..Always a pleasure to see you senior!

Lighting Director BOB DAVIS & spouse LIZ, hugged everyone, and still trying to sell the Penna farm. Both looking hale and hearty!

ED LEN Photographer de Jour, was taking many flashes that you see here.

See Photos on Pg. 18, 18, 20

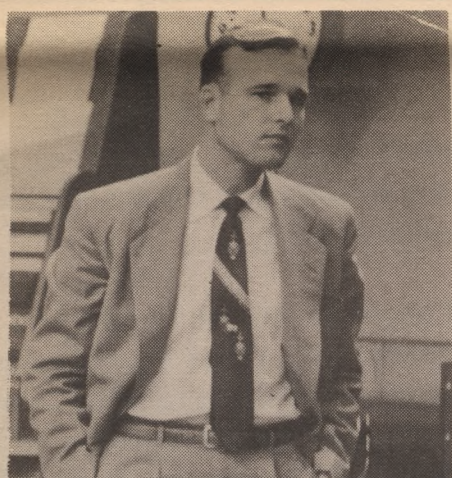
Golden Oldies



Al King, cameraman, and Mike Egan, while rehearsing "Sheriff Bob's Ranch"
Foto from the Ray Weiss collection



Remember this lady? ? She is Jean Alexander from "Savarin Saturday Night News"



Cal Broadhead in 50's, audio-taped foreign correspondents for "TODAY"



While doing "Sense and Nonsense" at 67th Street, Al King, Bob Hill, Lee Pliskin and By Wood. Photo - Ray weiss



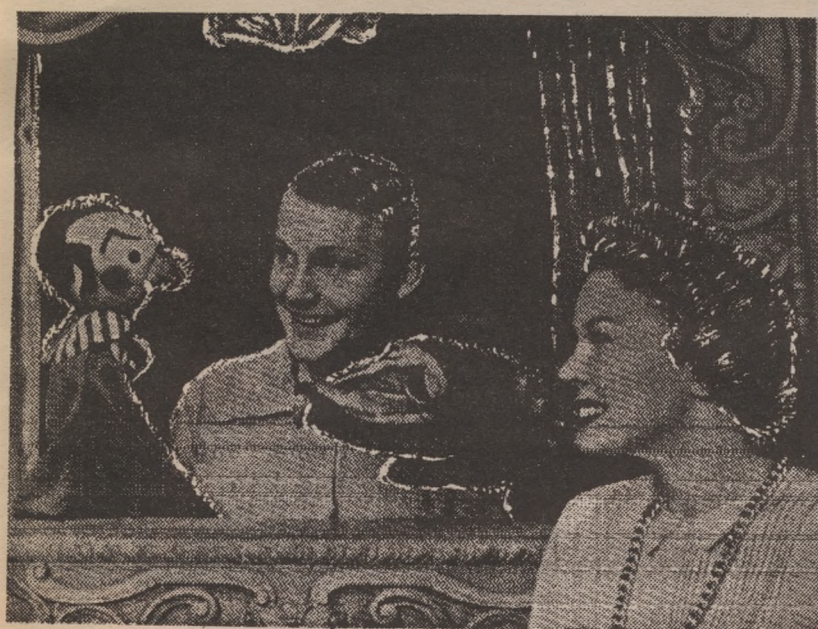
Ray Weiss on dolly camera, Lee Pliskin on rear R. camera



Steve Allen & Muriel McPherson from a Polaroid print in the 50's



The last Mini-lunch at the Picco Lissomo, Kathy Vukovich lent me this photo, taken at the Vatican during the filming of "Beyone Niagara", for the National Council of Churches, produced by Doris Ann. Left to right Joe Vadala, camera; Jim Gerrighy, sound; Alex Scourby, narrator; ? and Producer Doris Ann.



Remember Kukla, Burr Tillstrom, Ollie & Fran?



John Cameron Swayze, premiered the Camel News Caravan. Remember? From 106th Street? ? ?



A bit before Nightly News, Here is John Wingate, "Your Esso Reporter", Lee Pliskin on camera, 67th St.



Greeting Arriving guests:
Peg Peterson, Lois Vierling, Francesca Peters



Joan Gifford, Ed Len, & Gloria Clyne
Credit Ed Len with these terrific pictures



Helen & Elmer Gorry



Scott Connal, Garry Iorio, Jim Schaeffer



Michael & Sandra O'Connor at
their first re-union



Gene Waldstein
still working
at 30 Rock



Their name tags say Beth & Jack Durkin!
(They're enjoying Penna country living)



Buddy Shadel, Harry Musselman, John Lough
Buddy enjoys his hobbies at home; Harry and John are
active on the NBC retirees ham net



Liz Davis force feeding her husband, R.W.D. (Am testing
your memory, RWD = Robert Warren Davis, L.D.)

W I N T E R



Herb Gordon, Pete Peterson & Gene Frisch
Herb reports Fest's goings on, on Pg1.



Marge McGlynn

F E S T I V A L



Jack Keegan, Ray diPrima, Irene Keegan,
Helen diPrima



Dolly and Irving Messing

F O T O S



top: Don Kivell, Peter Tintle
bott: Vic Roby and Dick Dudley, poets.



Horace Ruiz, Dave Gould, Jim Sunder, Arnie Proner.
Arnie & Mrs(Irene) braved the winter storm coming up
from Hendersonville, North Carolina to attend !



Rod & Betty Rodamista



Dick Edmondson, Rita Stipo, Don Pardo



Jim & Florence Sunder - (met on a Slow boat in Hong Kong)



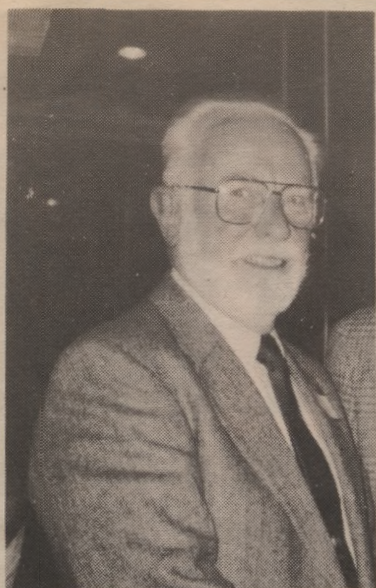
PN Major Domo Pete Peterson



Bill Hanrahan - Attending 1st Bash;
Roger Tuttle - building a plane;
Vic Roby writes poetry; Don Pardo-celebrating 50th year
in Radio/TV !!



Dave Gould, some stranger, and Carl Rohrer



Dick Swicker, into woodworking in a big way



Ray Lafferty & Bill DeLannoy



Steve Paganuzzi, came all the way from new Hampshire just to be at PN Bash !



Bob Fraraccio - on his way to Fla condo, and Tony Nelle, worrying about his boat after the storm!



From the Podium - YOU ALL -The Most Happy Retirees -
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO!

W I N T E R F E S T I V A L

"FOR NBC, HARD TIMES & MISCUES"

by dan grabel

Proof that those trashy "inside" books provide reams of material for the tabloids was apparent after onetime Today talent coordinator **JUDY KESSLER** came out with "The Battle for the Morning: Onside Today". My spouse, knowing I was a Today alumnus (1955-1963), she gave me a copy. A few chapters into it I started to make notes on the alleged "facts" I knew were merely creative writing. Then I reassessed my notes. Does the publisher really want to know about these mis-statements? Probably not. But it gave me a clue to the authenticity of the material. Strange how the writer was in on every important conversation of Today personages over a period of several years. However, a lot of stories about the "boy's club", as Kessler labels it, probably are authentic. NBC fought back with denials, and Pauley, Brokaw and Scott described Gumble as "terrific", but did not refute Kessler's charges. The Daily News' Book review said Kessler accomplished what she set out to do, "spill the swill". Well, she certainly burned a few bridges behind her and her current and future show colleagues will hold their tongue when Judy appears....

Well the rest of this column will appear mundane as we can't compete with Kessler.

Remember **SHELLY NEIMEYER**, the film expert who came to NBC News in the 1960's? - before the days of tape. We can all be jealous. After he retired he opted for the real free life. Shelly and his spouse, who worked at the Library of Congress, bought a 47 foot yacht and sailed off to the Caribbean. They now live in the waters off Venezuela.

EJ engineer **HENRY MACKLIN** tells us Shelly puts out his own newsletter from time to time to keep old friends abreast of his wanderings. NBC was really in the news-gathering business in those 1960s competitive days and Neimeyer was involved with the in-house film developing that provided the net with many news breaks.

Ah, remember those shots of film editors, scissors in hand, holding up a piece of 16mm before making the cut? They've swapped the scissors for those miracle EJ editing machines that create eye catching effects in seconds... **HI BROWN** who was an audio/film wiz in those days of double-system editing, is now living in retirement at Toms River, N.J.

Retiree **JOHN PASTERNAK** is an on-the-road type and does his travels in in one of those classic Airstream rolling homes...

A five kilometer walk/run through Central Park has been conceived to provide money for the **BENITE FUEREY** Fund. She was an NBC Newswriter who died of breast cancer...

BUD RUKEYSER, who headed NBC's public relations dept., is among the recent retirees to be added to the PN roster. Bud says he gets a kick out of reading about so many people he worked with...

Newswriter **VAN KARDISH** is retired but still at the typewriter, or should we say, word processor. He edits the NABET local 11 newsletter...

Former correspondent **JOHN HART** had some interesting revelations after he resigned from the Christian Science Church's World Monitor news operation. Hart charged that the church told its members that the costly radio/tv operation had a religious purpose, while it told the broadcasting staff it was strictly a secular operation. The church spent half a billion dollars on the project but says Hart, it did not provide promised resources to the daily program, after it was expanded to "round-the-clock broadcasts...

four hundred people worked on the project before it collapsed, including many former NBCers...

WNBC's weatherman **AL ROKER** is a BIG man, and apparently from what we gather from a NY Times profile on him, he intends to stay that way. Lunching at a midtown steakhouse, Al says, "I never could stand nouvelle cuisine". And then he turns to the waiter and orders a 30 ounce prime rib, "and don't hold anything!" P.S. Roker did not finish the 30 ounces, and took away the leftovers in a doggie bag.

(That was the Page 1 headline in the business section of a recent Sunday Times, and we are paraphrasing the analysis for those who missed the story. D.G.)

Reporter Geraldine Fabrikant, "Did the network go too far?" she asks, because the network is weak in prime time and elsewhere. Since 1990 NBC has lost its rating lead, dropped into second place lat season, and is now third.

She cites the loss -- for a variety of reasons -- of "Cheers", "Matlock", "Golden Girls", "Cosby", "In the Heat of the Night" and possibly "Letterman", along with the departure of Carson, as possibly the clues for the decline under Bob Wright and GE.

Fabrikant, quoting industry experts, says many mistakes are the result of GE's "**fixation on cost-cutting and its implacable belief that no special skill is needed to run a creative business**". One former NBC exec quoted John Welch of GE, "the network business is just like the investment banking business".

After taking over the net, GE slashed the payroll to 4,500 people from 7,500. Veterans often were replaced with newcomers who had little experience in network TV. Former general mgr. Bud Carey harshly noted, "GE has not contributed a single idea that has worked". Wright disagrees. "We haven't lost any of the magic in the decision process, but we had a difficult as market".

The network,(excluding O & O's) made \$340 million in profit in 1989, lost 50 million in '91, and expects to make 50 million in '92. With profits from the O&Os this year, the total may be \$265 million. The ABC net is expected to make \$114 million this year, and with the O&O profits, that will increase to \$500 million, or nearly double NBC's.

One analyst said the net did "an awful lot of slashing and burning. If you swing a machete, you may hit an artery. Its great to save money, but in the end you lose the franchise". Other analysts are confused about an NBC strategy for programming.

The Times report also got into personalities:

- Wright has only three years experience in tv, running Cox Cable.
- Dick Ebbersol, with no experience, was put in charge of "Today", and forced the swap of Deborah Norville for Jane Pauley.
- Michael Gartner, a newspaper man with no tv background, came in as president of news. On the bookkeeping side, gartner has been a success, changing a 1988 loss of \$72 million to a 1992 profit of \$18 million. twenty percent of the cost cutting was achieved by staff layoffs. In early December, 10 more news-writers, out of a stable of 40, were offered buyouts. (In 1986 there were more than 150 newswriters on staff). Gartner has increased news air time form 18 hours to 70 hours a week. But the big show, Nightly News, is third in the ratings. He attributed ABC News' good ratings to the fact that they follow The Oprah Winfrey Show. But NBC news-staffers say it's their product. Cutbacks have affected news-gathering -- sources like Viznews, which was rejected out of hand years ago because they were below NBC standards, are basic NBC overseas sources today.

Ms. Fabrikant stated that NBC morale is down but Gartner described it as good. Obviously it's not all rosy since program ratings have been down. (Nightly News is in their place, an so is "Today".)

What about rumors of a sale of the net? Welch said, "We like NBC. Overall it has done very well for us." However, there was recent talk of a 3.5 billion dollar price tag, and discussions with Bill Cosby.

Finally the Times quoted former NBC press chief Bud Rukeyser, "**What happened at NBC is the inevitable byproduct of a mind-set that says network television is just another business**"... _._

India - As seen by

Page 22. Don & Sandy Luftig

India is a Third World country. That world is one of incredible contrasts. It is a tapestry of cultures, languages, religions and diets. It is a land of castes. There are some 3,000 of these social divisions which has evolved over thousands of years and determines the lives of the 850 million people who inhabit this vast country of more than a million square miles.



My wife, Sandy, and I travelled thru central India and neighboring Nepal for close to three weeks this past October. The sights, the sounds, the smells of the cities from New Delhi to Agra to Jaiphur to Kathmandu are difficult to express, but should be experienced to be fully appreciated.

Every moment seemed to be a "photo opportunity". I shot 24 rolls of film. In our group of 20 tourists, there was a constant cry of "Do you have an extra roll of film I can borrow?"

It is a land of turbans and turmoil, of crowded small streets filled with "sacred cow" droppings, of beggars and beautiful children. Our guide told us that most of the natives would not object to having their picture taken. Some expected to receive a few rupees as a "tip". In many places, brocaded women, children and holy men asked to have their pictures taken. at almost every place of tourist interest, there was



a man who quickly uncovered his basket to reveal **several cobras** and played his flute as their hooded heads weaved in the air while lenses clicked in a melody of their own. One such flute player demanded extra money from a tourist who taped him with a video recorder. After all, the beggar reasoned, it was "many" pictures being taken. If you bring a camcorder to India, expect to pay an extra dollar each time you take it into various buildings, forts, museums, etc. Normally, there isn't a charge for a regular camera.

NBC Ham Net Meets every weekday am

on 14.223 mhz, 9:45 - 10 am

Join in on the daily gabfests

While there are 15 major languages and hundreds of minor ones, there wasn't any problem of communication. English, the legacy of British rule, made it possible to speak to and understand almost everyone we encountered. Hindi, however, in the main official language.

In New Delhi, we stayed at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

No, the Donald doesn't own this one. Rates for a double room run from \$42 to \$50. a night. Bottled water is absolutely recommended. No ice, please. Indian beer, which is good, is about Rs. 20-45 per bottle at hotel bars.

We took a taxi tour of the city including the secretariat Building, Parliament House, the presidential Palace (Rashtrapati Bhavan) and the 238 feet high Qutab Minar, a soaring monument begun in 1193 and revised throughout the centuries. The carvings are incredible. Click, click. Hiring the taxi for the day cost us \$20 U.S. The rate of exchange is 28 rupees for an American dollar.

The weather was around 90 degrees and sunny. The humidity was acceptable. This is cool weather for this subcontinent country. If you're going to India, try to do it anytime from October to February. The really hot weather is from the beginning of April to the beginning of June. The monsoon (rainy) season sets in until the end of September.



Some of the other sights to see in New Delhi include the **India Gate, a war memorial** to the Indian soldiers who died in World War II. Over 90,000 names are inscribed on the Arch.

There are so many beautiful tombs like Humayun's tomb (a forerunner of the Taj Mahal) where the windows are beautifully carved.

In the center of the city is a most unusual observatory consisting of masonry-built astronomical instruments erected in 1699. They were used to read the horizontal and vertical angles of the heavenly bodies. The time of the day could be easily read to the minute. Click, click.

The next day, we flew Air Nepal to Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal. Strangely, Nepalese time is 15 minutes ahead of Indian Standard Time. I have no idea why this occurs. Nepal is a landlocked country. You can get there overland, but it is a long arduous trip that is not recommended.

We stayed at the deluxe Oberoi Hotel which can cost \$75-95 per day. Dinner, without drinks at a first class restaurant will cost \$8-12. The exchange rate is great -- 44 Nepalese rupees for one dollar.

We visited the Pashupatinath, one of the holiest temples in the Hindu world. Westerners are not allowed inside. The "all-seeing" eyes of Buddha are painted on the four sided base of the spires. Monkeys run loose freely. Dogs also enjoy the run of the land. Cows and tourists go almost everywhere.



One rare moment we will remember, is watching a Hindu cremation along the sacred Bagmati river. We have read about it. We have seen it in the movies. Seeing it as it actually happened was unique and touching. Click, Click, Click...

From Kathmandu we took a flight to a place in Nepal knows as "Tiger Tops". Our small plane landed on a grass strip marked with white-painted stones to guide the pilot. He buzzed the field once to chase the cows from the landing strip. We were greeted by bright-eyed youngsters and local musicians. We were their "entertainment" for the day. The children danced and frolicked in the propwash of the plane as it prepared for departure.

We, then, started our journey to the lodge by taking a land rover for about 15 minutes. Click. When we reached a small river, a flat boat took us across. Click. and then another jeep ride for five more minutes to another small river. A second boat crossing was followed by a two



minute ride, to where we climbed aboard an elephant (click) which finally took us to the lodge after an exciting ride through the jungle. (Sounds like a James Bond Movie I saw the other night -H.) Click, click, click. The "Tiger Tops lodge does not have any electricity. Kerosene lamps supply the illimination. Generators keep the food redrigerated... After dinner and drinks and a recap of the exciting journey, we slept easily.



The next day, we awakened at 5:30 am for another elephant ride to search out tigers in the jungle. We didn't see any, but one group said they did. (But, no one took a picture. Click - Not.)



We did take a **picture of a one-horned rhinoceros**, a wild boar, a peacock (no relation to NBC), and some unusual deer. Click click.



Our trip to India included a remarkable visit to the city of Varanasi , where we once again woke up early to drive to the **sacred River Ganges**. At sunrise, there were thousands of early morning worshippers at this, the most sacred river in all of India. Click, click, click,click!

Later, we visit Saranath, a renowned center of religion and learning, noted as the spot where Buddha preached his first sermons in 500 B.C. . At a marble "factory" we purchased a **three-foot high Buddha** which hopefully will arrive within three or four months. It is beautifully carved and its serene simplicity is captivating.

Another interesting side trip was to a small town of Bhaktapur where the same film company that filmed "The Last Emperor" was busy building sets in the main square for a new film about Buddha.





The absolute highlight of any trip to India must include seeing the **Taj Mahal in Agra**. The Taj Mahal was built between 1631 and 1653 by Emperor Shah Jahan as the tomb for his wife. It is entirely built of white marble. About 10,000 visitors see this Wonder of The World every day. The edifice is perfectly symmetrical except for the outer spires, which rise six inches off center. This was deliberately done so that in the event of an earthquake, the spires would fall away from the main dome that contains the crypt. How's that for planning ahead- in 1631? The Taj Mahal at sunrise (seems like we saw a lot of those) was a mental picture that is printed forever in our memory. Click, click...

We then travelled on the "Palace on Wheels" train across central India. This is a remarkable super deluxe train (the cars previously belonged to Maharajahs) and we enjoyed travelling to Jaipur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer.

In Jaipur, we attended a Maharajah's party atop his fortress. It was complete with hors d'oeuvres, music and fireworks. Jodhpur is a Rajasthani City, on the edge of the Great Desert. This is the land of the Rajputs, the fierce warrior clans that ruled over 1,000 years with a code of heroic chivalry. Their golden age was from the 13th to the 16th century. We were driven to the desert and then enjoyed a somewhat rocky ride on a camel..Click, click, click.. "Anybody have an extra roll of film??"

Here now in Bombay, we visited the homes of Pandit Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, and the home of Indira Gandhi. Also went by motor launch to Elephanta Island and visited the cave temples, originally called Gharपुरi. The sculptures are great art and some of them took fifty years to carve in the rock. Click, click.

From Bombay, we flew home, in first class, on Air India.

The faces, the sights, the sounds of India filled more than our scrapbook. It was a trip that found each day's happening more exciting and different than the day before. Each day, we thought it would be impossible to top the previous day. Happily, we were wrong....

Don & Sandy Luftig

A Whitehouse Christmas

By Vic Roby

(With apologies to Clement C.Moore)

"Twas the night before Christmas: all through the Whitehouse

Ev'ry creature was stirring with George and his spouse.

They were packing and moving belongings with care

For Saint Nicholas Clinton would soon be there

Bringing goodies for all and yet low'ring the debt.

While reducing our taxes... oh, yeah, wanna bet!?!

He would NOT increase taxes for you or for me;

He would just raise the rate on that "man behind the tree".

And so while you're enjoying your Christmas-time glee-

Just be sure you're not caught BEHIND the yule tree!

If you ARE you may learn some bad news that is shocking:

That YOU are the Santa for Uncle Sam's stocking!

So under the porch or within a thick wall

You should dash away! Cash away! Stash away all!

Uncle Sam will come after you wanting some more!

So in FRONT of the yule tree here's wishing you cheer...

Peacock North, Merry Christmas and ... HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

LATE P.N. PEOPLE ITEMS

DICK WILLIAMS noted in a Christmas card that he and Mrs(Billie) recently sold their home in (Staten Island) late November and have moved to Sequim, Wash state. Now resides in a large Mobile Home Park, and expects to remain there rather than build a house. Boyhood ties do drag one around, for Dick loved it in Wash, and had to go back!

ANN PACURAR (Lombardo) ex tv scheduling P.C.'s with Herb Oxman on "Genie" or anyone with a PC. Besides schmoozing and musing about skiing with the NBC group Alfie Jackson and wife, Frank MacArdle, Jerry Cudlipp etc; but regrets not having skied since 1957. She reports that RITA YOUNG who worked in the 6th floor with Pete Affee and Vince Mitchell, scheduling all the studios for tv and dry rehearsals, now lives in Maine. She also tells of being in touch with Tamby (O.Tambourri) on "Prodigy" with the PC's (Looks as if the old timers are getting with the new technology. You can too)

Marian Eiskamp has undergone some medical tests
June Carlton: (Lee's wife) Her condition has been reported stabilized with chemotherapy.
Louise Pappas has been in and out of the hospital under cancer treatment of a serious nature. Would appreciate any letters. Write to

Louise Pappas,
70 Riverside Drive,
New York City, N.Y. 10024

OVER 80 - Register with Pete

Lemme Tell You About My Operation

by ray lockhart

Snead's Ferry, NC, Dec. 1992

Some months ago, in response to a minor symptom, I called for an appointment with a physician in a nearby town. New to this North Carolina beach community, my primary purpose was to establish a relationship with a local doctor rather than out of any concern for the minor symptom.

The first question posed by the nurse/secretary who answered the phone was, "Are you Medicare?"; when I said no she said "Thank God" and scheduled an immediate appointment. On arrival I asked the nurse/secretary (who turned out to be the doctor's wife) to clarify her initial question. She apologized and related in great detail the paperwork involved in a medicare filing. Not fitting work, she said, for the wife of a successful physician forced out of retirement to finance healthcare for a seriously ill granddaughter.

The experience set me to thinking: I have been a proponent of mandatory, universal, health care for years, based on the belief that health care is a basic right due all citizens in a democracy. This belief had been

strengthened recently by the research involved in some programs we produced on healthcare reform.

OPERATION...2

But, Hold on! This is no longer theory (Fairness? Justice?) nor a mere television program. I'm into the two month countdown to Medicare and this is my body, one which has been pampered for the past twenty years by physicians with Park Avenue addresses, affiliated with first-class teaching hospitals. What's going to happen when the "Are you Medicare?" question must be answered affirmatively? Will I suddenly become a second-class patient, or be referred to the clinic?

My orange Medicare card arrived in late October. During a visit, one of my Park Avenue specialists referred me to a Fifth Avenue colleague and I felt compelled to announce that after November 1st, my primary coverage would be Medicare. Though I detected a slight hesitation, He said "That's not important, we must get to the bottom of this".

Subsequently I've visited two more specialists, have been tested extensively in the first-class teaching hospital and not an eyebrow has been raised on my presentation of the Orange card. I've spent a fair amount of time waiting for tests to be performed, but, surrounded by younger people, I came to realize that this is merely a part of the normal Healthcare system.

OPERATION...3

In my short term experience I have found myself dealing with healthcare professionals, professional in the true sense of the word. From doctors, nurses, technicians, to the most polite people at Health and Human Services and the RCA Plan for Health everyone appears dedicated to what's best for me, the patient.

So I can maintain my support for Mandatory Universal Healthcare and stifle any selfish, instinctive desire for exclusive 1st Class Health care. Medicare, while not exclusive, is 1st class healthcare. If it works for we old folk, it should work for the general population.

The operation? A little nip here, a little tuck there, and my colleagues are remarking on how young I look. But I've noticed the picture in my passport is developing wrinkles.

Letters

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201:627-1979, Ask for: Jose Cintron

Who's Who in P.N.?

[I first met Ray Lafferty in my early days in TV. Here is a short bio of nostalgia, which many can relate to, with a glimpse of what kind of persons were involved in the industry's development. H.]

Cliff Gorsuch, an early NABET official told me of an opening at NBC's Development Lab which made a significant difference in my life, otherwise I might still have been in the boondocks.

I stayed at WSLB from the fall of 1940 until the fall of 1942 when I accepted a teaching post at the Signal Corps School in the Adirondacks. After a year there, I was employed by the Boonton Radio Corp.(BRC) in New Jersey. and worked on military equipment until June 1944, when I enlisted in the Navy.

After 18 months in the Navy I returned to my parents home in Englewood N.J. By this time, my daughter was 2.5 years old. A week later Harold Frank from WSLB asked me to return to the station. Since Boonton Radio made a miserly offer, I was glad to return to WSLB, although I wanted to continue the design work at BRC.

During the 2 years '46-'48 at WSLS, I spent a great deal of time studying basic theory and circuit design. I published a few articles and Cliff had spotted one in "Electronics" magazine, which led me to NBC. Our 1st son was born in 1947 in Ogdensburg.

At NBC I worked directly under Lew Hathaway, who was a great fellow and I learned much. (- One of Lew's projects, was in Newport Rhode Island, checking out

Engineer Ray Lafferty Reminisces

some airborne transmitter system which was subsequently used to air an America Cup Yacht race. What a joy to go to work and be helicopter flying all day, and then seeing the race from 800 feet! H.-]. I spent 9 years there and made a number of contributions. [typical modesty.- H].

Between 1956-57, RCA Princeton began to skim off the more interesting projects, so decided to move again. This time to the Daven Co. of N.J. (who designed and manufactured 90% of the faders used in the industry. I was appointed Ass't Chief Engineer, and stayed for 3 years.

During the period from 1948 to 1960 I did some consulting work and some design work for the 2 men from WSLB, who had founded Boonton Electronics Co. In 1960 they asked me to join then as Engineering Manager, and several years later I was made VP of the Company.

I retired in 1982, but still did some consulting work until 1991, when most of my attention had to be directed to my wife Marge who started to show signs of Alzheimer's. She is now completely dependent on me.

The most significant event that happened to me was my election to Fellow Grade in the IEEE in 1980. And When I think of the many members with qualifications superior to mine, I wonder... why me? But of course, I appreciated it.

Ray Lafferty

[Thank men like this for the contribution they made to what is now modern TV and Radio! H.]

Some names of the NBC Development Lab engineers: All Giants in early TV development..(Also some ladies too!)

Engineering V.P. - O.B.Hanson

"Doc" Bob Shelby

George Nixon

Ray Monfort

Russ Debaun

Bill States

Lew Hathaway

Dudley Goodale

Andy Hammerschmidt

Jack Burrel

Vernon Duke

Ed Bertero

Ralph Kennedy

Joe Petit

Jack Ulfik

Lloyd Clark

Pierre Bucheron

Roy Moffat

Dick Pickett

Hank Gurin

Keith Mullenger

Howard Schumacher

Robert Frazer

John Valli

Fred Hatke

Reid Davis

Al Protzman

Hank Folkerts

Frank Somers

Bob Clark

Charley Townsend

Robbie Compton

Herb Degroot

Dolores Taylor

Helen Jost

Joan Schumacher

also T.J. Buzalski from the NBC TV xmtr.



NEW P.N. MEMBERS

We would like to welcome these new members to Peacock North. Hope they enjoy getting together with their old friends as much as we have.

G.Marilyn Alexander, New York, N.Y.
Joan Annette, Edison, N.J.
William Aulepp, Scottsdale, Az.
Rick Berman, Charlottesville, Va.
Michael Connor, New City, N.Y.
Pat Donegan, N.Y.C., N.Y.
Leonard Gordon, Roslyn, N.Y.
George Hooper, Westfield, N.J.
Chris Kehl, Farmingville, N.Y.
Michael Levine, Parlin, N.J.
John Marrin, Upper Montclair, N.J.
Peg McKinley, N.Y.C., N.Y.
John O'Connor, Staten Island, N.Y.
Samuel Phillips, Somerset, N.J.
Tony Rivera, Bayside, N.Y.
Jay Roper, Northridge, Calif.
Steve Roskin, Marlboro, N.J.
Bud Rukeyser, New York, N.Y.
Jim Schaeffer, Hinesburg, Vt.
Jean Schneider, River Edge, N.J.
Geraldine Stonebridge, Jamaica, N.Y.



Elmer Gorry lent us this Home Show photo Starting top L. I don't remember them all but - I see: Bill Bonner, Lee Carlton, the audio engr., Larry Owen, Dave Lalicatta, Ted Nathanson, Frank Gaeta, Eddie John, - - Norman Paris (ork), now center row, lady seated - Carol Burnett, Barbara McNair, Arlene Francis, Hugh Downs, - bott row left. Frank Manfredi, - - Henry (stge hand), Hugh floor mgr or AD, and way right seated in Elmer Gorry. Can you name them all? ? ? ?

Written on an Ancient Typewriter

by rockabye dudley

As we roll into '93,
Let's drink a toast to our TV ,
From '39 to the present day,
You've helped us pass the time away.
We've watched you through the sweet and
bitter,
Used you for a baby sitter.

Mrs. Frances, Mr. Rogers,
Helped to calm the little codgers,
Clarabelle that squirty mime,
Bob Smith on Howdy Doody time.
And did they laugh ? They did, by golly,
At Kukla, Fran and especially Olly.

Big Bird taught them ABC's,
Miss Piggy hinted "Birds & Bees".
T'was on the moppets where she made the
scene,
With Kermit, who was green.
Mickey the mouse, Winnie the Pooh,
The Flintstones, Captain Kangaroo.

We older folks viewed other wags,
Like "Uncle Miltie" dressed in drag.
Lucille Ball with two left feet
Red Barber in the catbird seat.
Sid Caesar on the "Show of Shows",
Durante struttin with his nose.

B.

Bob Hope, that everlasting fellow,
Godfrey, Abbot and Costello.
And if that were not a plenty,
Burns and Allen and Jack Benny.
Carol Burnett, Jackie Gleason,
Who always signed for another season.

Ah! those were the days when we had fun,
Watching the flight of the Flying Nun.
Laughing at Laugh-in, the Flip Wilson Show,
Skelton and Silvers as Sargeant Bilko.
Oh thank you so much for those wonderful
dramas,
That could be the cure or the cause of our
traumas.

The dean of the producers, as you may well
know,
Was a southerner, by the name of Fred Coe.
His Playhouse for Philco and Studio One,
Were jewels in your crown when you'd just
begun.
Fred-sired Mr. Peepers came up with
inventions,
Mirror shots and techniques too numerous
to mention.

C.

We call that time your Golden Age,
When adult drama was all the rage.
News was evolving, one example I'll
mention,
When Huntley Joined Brinkley one night at
convention.
With Chancellor below, down on the floor,
Until he was not there any more.

Where is the aura that once did abound,
When another New Year came around.
And Guy Lombardo and "Bunny Grauer"
Rang "Auld Lang Syne" from a Times
Square Tower?

We remember the moments you only could
capture,
Moments of sorrow, of terror, of rapture.
When Edward R. Murrow enabled a bigot,
To dig his own grave and be buried in it.
When the world in a shock as if lost in a
maze,
Watched the rites for a leader that
continued for days.

D.

Who else but you, could grant us the boon,
Of watching the first man set foot on the
moon?
You gave us Tom Brokaw, you gave us Ed
Newman
And newsmen in lands that are known to few
men.
Shall we say in Today, should we roam
through the heather?
We'll know when Willard gets round to the
weather.

We remember how often we started our day
Watching a chimp annoy Dave Garroway.
And I dare say there's no better man,
To Bed us down, than Letterman

When all the Sabbath nights arrive,
We watch a melee, that's alive.
Its pioneers can't be replaced,
Ms. Curtain, Akroyd, Radner and Chase.
Belushi, noble Samurai,
Who made us laugh until we'd cry.

This toast could cite a thousand more
Remembered moments we adore.
But we can see without a doubt,
Our time is almost running out.
Before we quaff, we must not hide
The scars upon your darker side.

E.

Oh if you had some great power
to Limit the ads that run in an hour.
I know that networks must pay their rents
And give bonuses to vice presidents.

There are those times when we are blest
With an unsponsored movie on PBS
Which runs from the bottom upto its crest
With nothing to muddy our interest.

Those Gucci robed evangelist
With Rolex watches on their wrist
Who promise we will see the light,
If we send in our widows mite.

The chatterers who search the truth:
(Geraldo, Oprah, Dr. Ruth)
With tainted guests, off colored blue,
You'll find them too on Donahue.

Why do mavins of sport who do play-by-play
Keep yaking 'bout games played in
grandfather's day?
Please, on my knees, I beg and implore
Could they pause for a moment and tell me
the score?

F.

And Oh Glorious Tube, please take us back
To the days when the laughter was real, not
track.
Your soaps I don't watch but somewhere
I've read
That all of their action takes place in a bed.

So a toast to your health and I hear my
derision
On people who say they don't watch
Television.
Our thanks to your fathers, those great
engineers
Who nursed you with care in your embryo
years.
They tinkered and toiled - never giving up
hope
Til, Lo and behold! -- the Iconoscope.

I hope my reproof has not caused you
dismay,
But faults that you have, virtues outweigh.
I'm sorry your frailties I happened to
mention
For without you, Dear Tube, I would not
have a pension ! !

dick dudley

**ANNUAL P.N. DUES:
PAYABLE JANUARY 1ST**



"FOTO" GRAVURE

Wayne Howell enjoyed Norman Blumenthal's Concentration article. However, Wayne says Norm didn't mention his favorite announcer, me - Wayne Howell. Norm called me when I was in St. Thomas, V.I. and said "I need You". So I cut my vacation short and did his show the last several years. Ah, me.

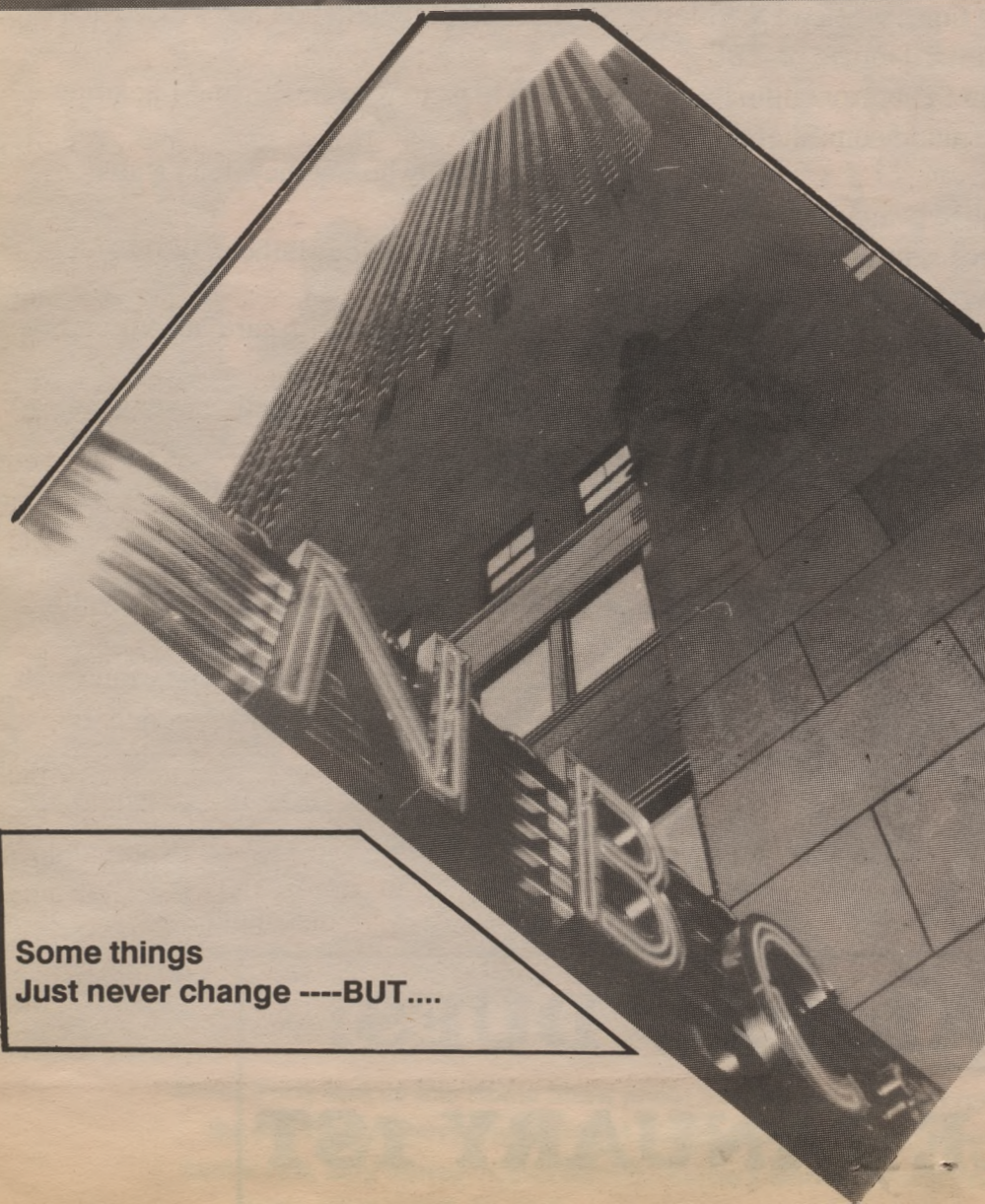
Same thing happened with "Miss America". I announced it for 19 years. This year Regis and Kathy Lee did it. They didn't call me. Cheez!



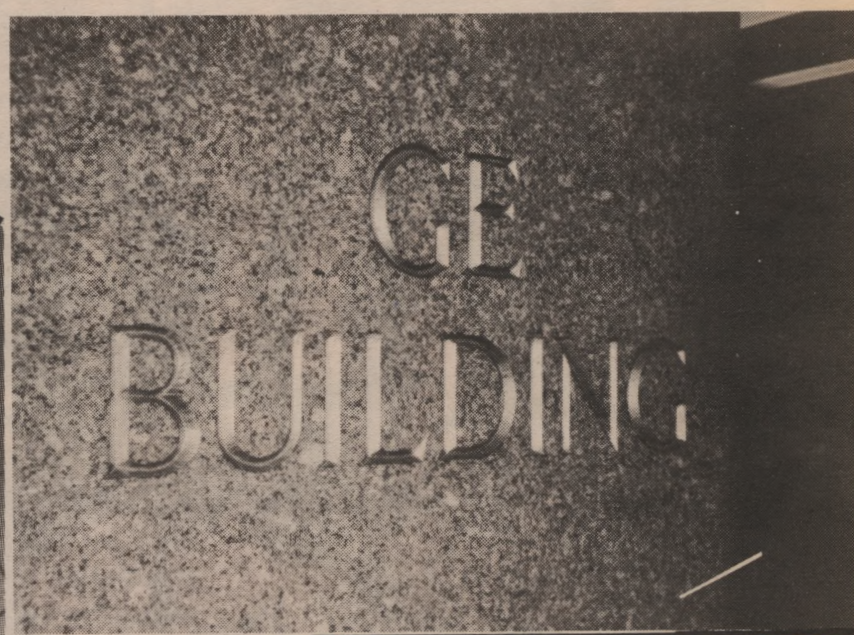
Another foto from Wayne . Remember when Tom Snyder had an 11 PM show on NBC ? Here's Tom with his guests Jerry Lester, Dagmar and Burt Reynolds...

Well O.K., O.K., it's not Burt.

Since Wayne retired, it's hard for him to remember who he is. (But then, sometimes I think I'm Clark Gable).



Some things
Just never change ----BUT....



BUT --- Some Things ---
JUST NEVER STAY THE SAME !

AH MEMORIES !

LETTERS

Page 29.

NIGERIA

by Rick Caro

In the Sixties one of the fascinating projects NBC was involved in, far removed from 30 Rock, was to assist foreign organizations to set up television services.

NBC International, which handled foreign syndication, management contracts and overseas investments was headed up by Al Stern at the time, negotiated a contract to help set up and train the staff of the first TV station in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria.

Several long time staffers, including Bob (J.Robert) Myers, Jack Burrell, Cliff Slaybaugh (both RCA and NBC) Bill Schmitt, Dave Horowitz and myself were involved in various aspects of this project.

My primary task was to do some of the initial planning, including working with local architects, and others in connection with building the studios and offices. As a result I spent three fascinating periods in Nigeria.

For the final contract signing with the Prime Minister, Sir Abukar Balewa, both Bob Sarnoff, who I believe was chairman of NBC at the time, and Al Stern came to Nigeria for a colorful ceremony.

Unfortunately the Prime Minister did not have a long time to enjoy watching television not to mention running the country, since he

was overthrown and killed in 1966. On the other hand, our primary contact, the Minister of Information, T.O.S. Benson, survived many upheavals and changes of government, and even in 1992 still keeps in touch with Bob Myers.

The three key people from NBC, who made up the initial management team were Bob Myers, Jack Burrell and Stan Brightwell. Bob, who joined NBC in 1936 and retired in 1972, had been in production and traffic, he headed the latter in the fifties, and subsequently held management positions with NBC International in the UK and Venezuela. He headed up the Nigeria project. Jack Burrell, the chief engineer, had been director of Tech. Ops in Burbank, while Stan Brightwell, the production head, had been program director at WMAQ-TV. The rest of the 20 person NBC team was hired in the US and various countries in the British Dominion.

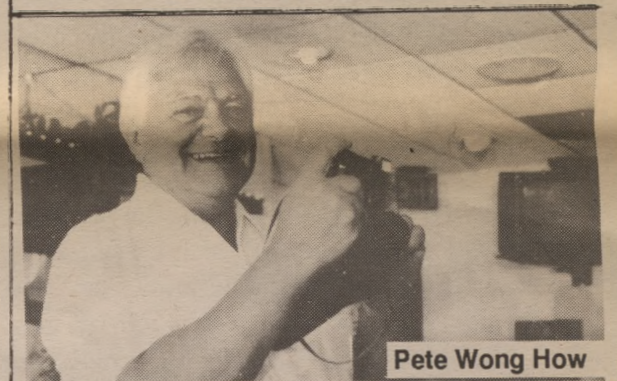
Gradually, as Nigerians were trained, the U.S. team was gradually phased out.

Being involved in this project, was certainly one of the high points of my 40 year career with NBC and RCA, which ranged from the 1948 political conventions, to the 1953 Coronation outing at Logan Airport, the failure of the computers at the 1964 election and the rescue by the back-up team set up by Frank Jordan, NIS and finally helping turn out the lights at RCA on the 52nd floor.

Ulrich F.(Rick) Caro



Herb Oxman appeared at the Bash Festival on crutches. Everyone thought that surely Herb had a broken leg from skiing -- But NOOOOO! Tore something while playing Tennis! Is recuperating from the operation nicely. Get rid of those things soon Herb..



Pete Wong How

MEMORIES

by ray weiss.

From far away Fort Lee, New Jersey !

When I arrived home from Barcelona in mid September I found both the May and Autumn editions of PN waiting for me. As I read them, fond memories of NBC filled my mind. Most remember me for the years I spent in radio, only the "older" folk will remember that I started in 1950 with Bill Kelly and Arnie Gold. We would sit in the maintenance shop across the hall from "Tiny" Carson's MCR desk-in-the racks and wait for a call from Ann Pacurar's office for an assignment. My first assignment was for the Easy Does It Show with Johnny Andrews and Francey Lane at 106th Street. Alan Handley directing, on a budget that sometimes called for using scenery from other shows before being shipped out, and Bud Yorkin was the floor

manager. (Only last week, I watched "Something for the Boys" and Bud's name as well as Walter Miller, big as life appeared. Walt played the part of a TV director. Good casting eh? H.)

The maintenance shop was supervised by Doc Dickson. It was associated with a few film chains (as they were known). There were alternating 16 and 35 mm projectors with iconoscope cameras on rails that could be moved in front of a loaded projector. Very clever, and during the air shows, these cameras had to be moved back and forth to the correct port. Live TV.

Reading Enid Roth's memories brings to mind a bit of trivia. The Steve Allen Show for Knickerbocker beer from 67th Street was where Steve and Edie met before the show became "TONIGHT" and moved to the Hudson Theater for the network. They were not the original male/female singers on the show. The answer to "Who were

the original couple?" will be found at the end of this "memory". I knew Edie from High School; we attended Wm. H. Taft High in the Bronx and had many friends in common.

I could go on reminiscing about those "good old days" when TV was LIVE and every day was exciting, but I'll close now with the answer to the above trivia note. Steve Lawrence sang with Helen Dixon when the show began. We had rehearsed a preview show with Connie Russell but on opening night she had to be in California so Ms Dixon was brought in.

It was good seeing you in Barcelona, if only for a fleeting moment as you checked in and out of the IBC (Int'l Broadcast Center). I came out of retirement for the past two years to work on the olympics and stayed over to assist in the breakdown. From there I went to Italy, visiting Rome, Florence and Venice before coming home. Now it's back to retirement...

Ray Weiss

Have a Happy New Year !

NBC'S FOURTH OF JULY PARTY, 1934

In 1934 when I was employed by NBC, the first President of NBC was Mr. Merlin Aylesworth, who had been the President since the inception of NBC in 1926. My story is about the second President of NBC, Mr. Lenox Lohr, who was known as "Major Lohr", and how I came to meet him.

One of the responsibilities I had in my early years in the engineering Department was checking out the technical systems of the executive offices in the RCA building each morning. This consisted of the self-contained air conditioning units in the RCA building (at that time, the RCA building was not centrally air conditioned) and the speaker selector system. The latter consisted of a small inclined box on each desk in the executive office with a selector dial, similar to a dial phone. By the use of this selector the executive could dial up any radio station in the New York area and all the NBC studios in the NBC Studio building. If there was an engineer in any particular studio one would be able to listen to the rehearsal or air show emanating from that studio. The dial selector was connected to an amplifier and speaker housed in a large attractive cabinet. The standby studio, 2-A, did not require an engineer as it was "Hot" at all times should there be a program failure. We engineers would patch around the studio and listen to what was going on in the standby studio. We would hear the musicians talking amongst themselves and playing cards or telling racy stories. Many times they did realize that the mike was on at all times.

It was my function each morning to check out all the above equipment, and if anything was not working properly to report it to the proper maintenance department. The office of Major Lohr, the President, was located on the North East corner of the sixth floor looking down on the Prometheus fountain and the Channel Gardens, between the French and British buildings. The Vice President's office was occupied by Mr. Niles Trammell and had the same view, except it was located on the South East corner of the building. Between the two offices was the Board Room. These three rooms were richly paneled in exotic woods and I remember the President's office was in a deep cherry color wood, with a more or less secret door connecting his office with the board room. This enabled him to enter or leave the board room, without going through the reception room that spanned the three rooms.

The executive receptionist was the beautiful Esme O'Brien, who later married Robert Sarnoff. She was assisted by a young man named Joseph Milroy. Over the years, the three of us had many contacts. Esme, after leaving the executive receptionist position, became music coordinator for the *Maggi McNellis Private Wire* program, on which I was the studio engineer. Both of these wonderful ladies, unfortunately, have passed away. (Today, Joe Milroy is well and happy, living in Boynton Beach, Florida, where my wife, Jaye, and I live in the winter. Joe and I run across each other quite frequently.)

Now, as to how I came to meet and know Major Lohr, who, by the way, wanted to be addressed as "Major". (David Sarnoff wished to be addressed as "General", and believe me, I made sure on each occasion I had to converse with Mr. Sarnoff, I was sure to use the "GENERAL"....)

One early morning after checking the board room, I proceeded to pass through the "secret door" into Major Lohr's office. As I opened the door I was confronted with a sight that shook me up. Not expecting to see anyone in the office, I was shocked to see Major Lohr and his secretary,

both on their hands and knees on the floor. They were on a massive map of the United States. When I saw this, I immediately excused myself, and began to back out of the office, but the Major called me back and explained that they were checking the distances between NBC radio stations throughout the United States. The map was about ten feet square, so it covered a great deal of the floor. For a long time after that, I refrained from using the "secret" door. I would come into his office every morning at eight and quite frequently would find him seated at his desk, I would greet him with a "Good morning, Major, and he would greet me with "good morning, Ken." One day, he complained about a draft that was coming from the air conditioning unit and asked me if that could be corrected by directing the air away from his back. I assured him I could correct that immediately.

Since the Major was an engineering graduate, he questioned me as to how I would accomplish this. I said I would remove the deflector, turn it from left to right and then turn it from front to back. He got up and looked at it and disagreed with me, saying, it looked to him that turning it from front to back would do it. Inwardly I disagreed with him, but after all he was the president of NBC, so I obediently just said "Yes, Sir"... He asked me if I had another screwdriver for him to use, which I didn't, so he called his secretary and asked if she had a screwdriver or a nail file and, if so, bring it in. He said we would both take out the screws and he would move the grill the way he thought it should be turned, then I would remove it the way I thought it should go. Believe me, I was a nervous wreck at that moment. I never forgot the feeling of elation when he turned it and it was the wrong way and then I turned it my way and it was correct. He said he would have bet anything that the way he turned it would be correct.

On another occasion, I entered the President's office and found him sitting at his desk examining a small reel of film and as I approached his desk he asked me if I was familiar with the film. I assured him I was familiar with 8mm movie film, as I had a 8mm camera and projector when they first came on the market in about 1930. He was surprised that I had this equipment for such a long time and began to question me about the new type of color film that Kodak had just put on the market. I explained the new and improved color film, which was called lenticular film, which was much better than the old laminated color type. He appreciated my apparent knowledge of the 8mm information. Several months after this discussion I came into the engineer's lounge on the 5th floor and was greeted by my fellow engineers calling my attention to the note on the bulletin board for me to call Major Lohr's office. The phone number was listed and all the engineers were anxious to see me make the call. I suspected it was a gag, like at April 1st, All Fools' Day, when people are told to call a number that is the aquarium and ask to speak with Mr. Fish. So, I waited until I had access to a house phone away from the engineer's lounge. When Major Lohr's secretary answered the phone, she told me the Major had been looking for me all day.

All sorts of things ran through my mind and I could not imagine why the President of NBC wished to talk with me. When I arrived at his office, his secretary told me to go right in. The Major greeted me and said he wanted to speak with me about NBC's Fourth Of July party that was going to be held at his home, which I believe was in Tarrytown, New York, and he would like

me to run his 16mm theatre for the entertainment of the NBC employees attending the party. Of course, I was thrilled to do this, but explained I had no knowledge of 16mm projectors, to which he assured me, he would instruct me, saying he requested me because he was aware of my 8mm knowledge and knew his films would be safe with me. (I don't recall if NBC had a projecting department at that time.)

On the fourth of July I arrived at Major Lohr's home, a palatial brick house. The Major met me at the front door and immediately took me down to his "Movie Theatre" with inclined seats and a large crystal ceiling light and with a projection booth at the rear of the room. The theatre seated about fifty people. There were two RCA projectors, so one could segue from one reel to another. A vertical rheostat controlled the ceiling light, so it could be dimmed down and the wall lights brought up, exactly the way it is done in regular theatres. The Major explained it all to me and the selected film for the day was Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy story about The Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I think it was called "The Indian Love Song". I only had to show it once, as there were not too many "customers" and there were too many other things going on outside.

Next to the theatre, was a complete wood-working shop that the Major showed me. He was finishing a two foot model of a power boat that looked like an Elco that I had seen in a boat showroom on Park Avenue. In the living room on the first floor, there was a "real pipe organ" that I was dying to try, but each time I approached the organ, Graham MacNamee, the famous announcer, was pounding on it. He had no talent for music, but just kept it up. By the way, I never did get to play on it. Outside, there was a large in-ground pool in which many of the NBC people were having a good time. I recall one of the people in the pool was a cast member of the radio show, *Sisters of the Skillet*. There was a small lake on the property, about 300 feet long by 100 feet, with a small electric boat that could hold about five people going around with NBC guests.

There was a building that housed a professional bowling alley, but no pin boy, so it was not used by the guests. Attached to one side of the bowling alley building was a large, glass hothouse with all sorts, of exotic flowers growing there. There was a three-car garage with living quarters for the chauffeur above it. Attached to one side of the building was a two-story aviary, fully screened sides and top, which housed many kinds of exotic birds. Every large tree on this massive property had a bronze plaque fastened to the trunk stating the type, approximate height and age of the tree.

On this fourth of July, the Major had as his personal guest the famous explorer, Mrs. Osa Johnson, the widow of Martin Johnson. Mrs. Johnson presented Major Lohr with a baby "Honey Bear." Every one fell in love with the cute little bear.

In the evening, as the day wound down, there was a terrific fireworks display along the shore of the small lake, winding up with a pyrotechnic display of the American flag. I would say we all had a wonderful fourth of July at Major Lohr's home. I am surprised I remembered so much. The only thing I can't recall is what we ate or drank the whole day...

Major Lohr left NBC to become the chief executive officer of the Science and Industry Museum in Chicago.

Ken Arber

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Silent Mikes

JIM FOX, the loquacious production manager who never ran out of NBC anecdotes when you joined him at the seventh floor cafeteria, dies at the age of 70 in October from prostate cancer. He lived in Irvington on Hudson and is survived by his wife Joyce and four sons.

Jim was born in Dripping Springs, Texas, had a masters degree in fine arts from Yale, and taught there for one year before joining NBC in 1950. He was with the net 38 years and worked numerous shows: Mr. Peepers, Howdy Doody, Nat King Cole, Perry Como, The Home Show, Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Tom Snyder and numerous Apollo "Space Shots" and sports shows. It's like a cavalcade of NBC's first 50 years, and Jim probably had a book full of stories about each one of them. After retiring, he made 28 appearances in skits on the Letterman show.

THOMAS ERVINE a retired executive vice president and general counsel, he was with NBC from 1948 to his retirement in 1974. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage at age 80 in Manhattan where he lived. Following World War Two, Ervine was a prosecutor at the war crimes trials in Nuremberg, Germany. (Ed note: While he died early in 1992, we had not become aware of the death until this edition).

CHARLES (JOE) COLLEGE died September 30, 1992 following complications from a brain tumor. Charles started with NBC in the Field Group in 1933. During WW II he rose from a Lt.Jg. to Commander in the Navy and was a communications officer at the Pacific atomic bomb tests. He was in charge of TV operations in Washington from 1947 to '52. During this period he was involved with the early RCA Color TV tests being conducted at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington. He was director of Special Events in the Network News Dept in '52/'53 primarily handling the coronation in England. Following that, he became director of operations and engineering for the O & O stations. In 1956 he became V.P. of Network Technical Operations. He went to RCA in 1959 retiring as VP and General Mgr. of broadcast and communications products division in 1968.

We shall miss him. (Info supplied by Anny Hammerschmidt)

AL REYES, who spent many years in NBC radio, and later was as assistant director in television, dies of cancer at the age of 46 in November.

EDDIE KLEIN, passed away on December 1st. at the age of 68. Eddie had been in the hospital for about seven weeks.

He had cancer. He is survived by his wife, Bea; two sons and a daughter. Ed had started in the film area, and when film diminished, Eddie, moved over into tech ops.

During the eulogy, his son Howard mentioned that Eddie was quite an athlete. In fact he had a tryout for the New York Giants, during which he hit a home run - unfortunately he didn't make the team. (Thanks to Howie Atlas for this info)

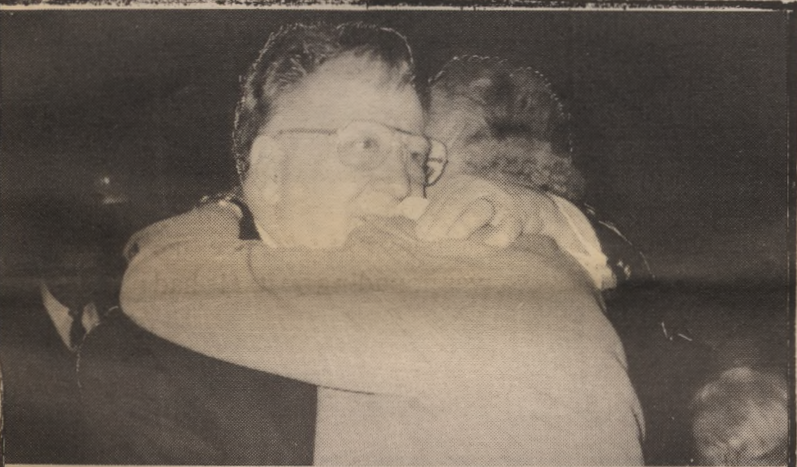
ERNIE THIEL. I regret that we do not have much information on his passing. I have fond memories of Ernie from the early fifties when he was expertly working the boom arm of one of the cameras, shooting their crewmates with water pistols during rehearsals much to the shargin of Max Liebman, the producer of NBC's early "Color Spectaculars" to Sapporo in Japan (1972), where he was super chief of the tape machines during the winter olympics; the look on the faces of the little Japanese children as they asked us for our autograph in the subway, the dinner we had atop the New Oritani Hotel's revolving restaurant in Tokyo, - talking to a table of happy boozing Russians, who weren't monsters after all, the night before Ernie went to China to join Pres. Nixon (as Hank Heustis talked about last edition. Then again we worked together running all over the Capitol during inaugurations with Charley Jones... Great times, and memories of a great guy. (H.)

BRYSON RASH, a familiar voice to America's radio listeners a generation ago, died in mid November at his Washington home at the age of 79. Rash worked for CBS and ABC from 1936 to '56 in Washington when he joined NBC. He was with the net until 1977 when he retired. During the score of years he was a reporter, anchor man, commentator and editorial manager, Rash won two Emmys for public service broadcasts and the Peabody Award for a series on Washington, D.C. home rule in 1973 which aired on WRC-TV. In recent years he worked for PBS and won an Emmy in 1988 for a tv program about the capitol called "Monuments and Myths".

Rash's broadcast career spanned half a century and stories he covered including the founding of the United Nations in 1945 and Martin Luther King's March on Washington in 1963.

FRANK SOMERS: P.N. learned that Frank has passed away. He had been a TV pioneer in the NBC development group in the 40's and 50's. He and Ray Monfort were experts on creating the sync generator, which determines the scanning process in all tv, also many other innovative inventions. Frank lived in California.

HAROLD MILLER died on Dec 23 in Nyack, N.Y. He was 81 years old.



Two L.D's caught by the camera exchanging their unlisted phone numbers! Bob Davis and Gene Martin.

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At 67th Street studios, a young Lena Horne singing to a young Larry Owen. Photo fm Ray Weiss

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