

**The Second Generation** 



WINTER, 2006

**Volume 5 Edition 4** 

# Tom Brokaw to Speak at Spring Luncheon

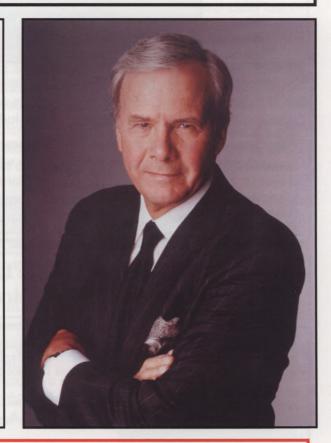
## **Breaking News!**

In response to popular demand we are resuming the tradition of having a featured speaker at the Peacock North Spring Luncheon.

NBC's own Tom Brokaw has graciously accepted our invitation and we look forward to welcoming him on Sunday, May 21st, at our usual time of 12 Noon.

Once again we'll gather at La Maganette, located on Third Avenue at 50th Street. The cost is \$25 per person, payable in advance.

Please mail in both the RSVP coupon on Page 27 and your check no later than May 10th. Include the name of your guest so that we may prepare badges prior to your arrival.



#### **INSIDE PN**

Spring Luncheon	. ]
Marilyn's Page and Manhattan Traffic on Luncheon Day	
Alan Walden, Award Winner	3
Top of the Rock Observation Roof Re-Opens	.4
Jeff Zucker and Steve Capus Promotions	5
We Get Letters6, 7,	
Bill Freeda and the NABET Retirement Club	9
Reuven Frank Remembered	1
We Get Letters and Photos—Opal and Bill Howard1	2
We Get Letters and Photos —Joe Coggins1	
We Get Photos—Peter Flynn Radio Memories1	

We Get Photos—Harry Katzman's Album	15
We Get Letters and Photos—Jim Blaney Jr and Gabe P	.16
We Get Letters and Photos—Arlene Francis Show	17
We Get Letters and Photos—Marilyn Jacobs Furey	. 18
Spirit of '76; Honorary Membership	19
Looking Back—Frank Vierling20	), 21
"Black and White"—Barney Blake	22
NBC Organization Chart—1981	23
Silent Microphones23, 24, 25	, 26
Luncheon Registration and Dues & Membership Form	27
New Members	28

## Marilyn's Page



Not everyone noticed Torino until the Olympic Games were awarded to it a few years ago. It was known for only two things: the Shroud and the headquarters of Fiat. I, however, will always fondly remember Torino as my first Olympic Games experience. It had always eluded me due to my News involvement, but not this time.

The city is very charming. The Po River meanders through it creating a wonderful sense of romance. During the Games there have been beautiful light shows which resemble holograms above the water. The whole city has put on its best face for the world to gaze upon, explore and fall in love with. Along with the gift wrapping come the warm and friendly people of Torino. They become all smiles when you tell them you like their town. The mantra of these Games is "Passion Lives Here." It certainly does. More in the next issue about the Games.

## Patching the Luncheon Day Special Circuits Directly to Your Office

Now that you know about our guest speaker, here are the rest of the details from our Mystery Transmission Engineer...

In past years our attendees have been surprised by a number of goings on in Manhattan on Luncheon Day, so here is a heads-up from Master Control...

Sunday, May 21st finds **Second Avenue closed** between 52nd and 42nd Streets for a Street Fair. The cross streets are open but Southbound travel is not possible. For **off-street parking**, La Maganette has a deal with the "Distinctive Garage" on East 51st Street, between Lexington and Third Avenues. With a coupon from La Mag, the rate is \$13.00 for up to ten hours.

In addition, note that **Ninth Avenue is closed** from 57th to 37th Streets for the annual Food Festival. The cross streets are open.



### Alan Walden Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

From a WBAL Baltimore Press Release....



The Society of Professional Journalists has chosen WBAL's Alan Walden as the recipient of its Helen Thomas Award for Lifetime Achievement. Named after longtime White House Correspondent Helen Thomas, the award honors an individual for a lifetime of contribution to the journalism profession. Past recipients of the award include Thomas, Ed Barber, Tom and Pat Gish, and Tom Brokaw. This year's award [was] handed out at the SPJ's annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 18, 2005.

Walden joined WBAL in Baltimore in 1988 as morning news anchor. His daily commentary, "Walden Ponderings," made its debut later that year, and is still heard on WBAL. Although he retired from the morning news in 1998, Walden continues to appear regularly on WBAL during major news events and is a permanent guest on the Chip Franklin Show each Friday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

During five decades, Walden was, at various times, reporter, anchor and news director of radio stations in Cleveland, New York, and Boston, vice president of news for Metromedia Radio, executive producer and chief correspondent of the NBC News and Information Service; and Director of Network News and senior correspondent for NBC Radio.

Walden's career at NBC in the 70s and 80s took him to Europe, the Middle East, and Central and South America for major stories including SALT II, the Arab-Israeli crisis, the conflicts in EI Salvador and Nicaragua, the Mexico City earthquake, the Falkland Islands War, the invasion of Grenada, and the Panama crisis.

"Alan has always prided himself on getting the story right. Regardless of whether it was a fact, or merely a pronunciation, Alan has always been a stickler for precision and accuracy," says WBAL Radio News Director Mark Miller. "Alan believes history is our greatest teacher, and he works constantly to convey history's lessons to our listeners."

Walden has won virtually every major award for broadcast excellence during his long and distinguished career. He is the author of two books: "Walden Ponderings-What's Right, What's Wrong, What Matters," published in 1995 and "Isthmus," a novel based on his experiences in Latin America, published as a talking book in 2002.

In addition to his broadcasting activities, Walden serves as Chairman of the Patriots of Fort McHenry, the volunteer organization that supports the National Park Service at the nation's only officially designated historic shrine. He is Executive Vice President of the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the United States, Co-Chairman of the Baltimore Maritime Museum, a member of the executive committee of the National Flag Day Foundation, and serves on the boards of the Living Classrooms Foundation, the B & 0 Museum, and the Baltimore Advertising and Professional Club.



December 13, 2005

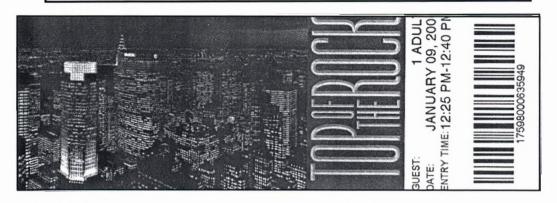
Hello Gang! Another bulletin from "Chez Walden."

Just to put this in perspective, last year's winner was Tom Brokaw. This year's finalists were Charles Osgood, Peter Jennings and Rush Limbaugh. THE winner was our Alan. We were over the moon!

He's still a very busy fellow, and I just try to keep up.

Love, Jeannie Houston Walden (NBC Radio Network's "Promo Princess" —Ed.)

## **Rockefeller Center Reopens Observation Deck**



Rockefeller Center, arguably the heart of Manhattan's commercial and cultural district, reopened its Top of the Rock observation deck and multimedia visitor experience in December at 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

Built in the 1930s by John D. Rockefeller Jr., 30 Rock is the home of NBC, Radio City Music Hall, the Rainbow Room, the ice rink and the tallest Christmas tree in town.

The reopening is being heralded locally as part of the overall revitalization of the Big Apple in the post-9/11 era under Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg, John's son David Rockefeller, 87, and current building owner Jerry Speyer were on hand to celebrate the reopening. Speyer's company Tishman Speyer spent \$1.58 billion for Rockefeller Center in 2001; in 1928 the newly constructed building was bought by John D. Rockefeller for \$62 million. In addition to the redesign of the observatory, which had been closed to the public since 1986 and is now accessed via high-tech Sky Shuttle elevators with transparent ceilings, there are a number of media exhibits on the floors below that guests can view before making the ascent.

These include the so-called Beam Walk, a through-the-floor projection enabling guests to walk across a period construction zone and get a sense of the agility and fearlessness of the steel workers who built the tower.

Three mini-documentaries also form part of the exhibit. One follows a day in the life of a Rockette, another is narrated by Tom Brokaw and explores the media high points as-

sociated with the building, and a third is focused on the Rockefellers' personal reminiscences of the development of the building and life in New York in the 1930s.

The skyscraper's upper decks are open from 8:30 a.m. to midnight. Tickets cost \$14. With an NBC ID Card you will receive a 10% discount.

For complete information and advance ticketing visit their website <a href="https://www.topoftherocknyc.com">www.topoftherocknyc.com</a>.



## What's Happening Now

## **Zucker Zooms to CEO Spot**

NBC Universal chairman Bob Wright has elevated Jeff Zucker to CEO of a newly reorganized television group and signaled that his protégé would succeed him as chairman when he retires in the next few years. Zucker was named CEO of an empire that includes the NBC Network, NBC U cable properties such as Bravo and USA Network, Spanish-language broadcaster Telemundo, NBC Sports, the Olympics and news, including MSNBC and CNBC.

Along with Zucker's promotion, Randy Falco was named president and chief operating officer of the Television Group and now reports to Zucker rather than to Wright. In addition to advertising, Falco adds NBC-owned stations, worldwide TV distribution and international channels to his plate. "What we've done is combine all our TV suborganizations into a larger one to get maximum cooperation and effectiveness," Wright said. The move continues a rapid upward trajectory for Zucker, who at 26 became the youngest-ever exec producer of "Today" in 1992 and became president of NBC Entertainment in 2000. Since then, NBC's once-dominant primetime schedule has fallen to



fourth place in the ratings, in part due to the departure of franchise shows like "Friends" and "Frasier" as well as breakthrough hits on other nets like CBS' "CSI," Fox's "American Idol" and ABC's "Desperate Housewives." The network's primetime failures contrast sharply with news and latenight programming, where NBC is dominant, as well as the performance of the stations, which lead in many local markets.

Wright cast the reorganization as bringing all of NBC U's resources to bear on a long-awaited primetime turnaround. "We are struggling to rebuild primetime, and we want to take advantage of every part of our organization to ease that effort and accelerate it," he said.

[From Variety]

[Ed. note: see Russ Tornabene's letter about Jeff on page 6.]

## **Steve Capus Heads News Division**



Jeff Zucker and Bob Wright named Steve Capus to lead the news division, a job he'd held on an interim basis since former president Neal Shapiro left in September. The appointment marks a meteoric rise for Capus, who five months ago was executive producer of "Nightly." In that post Capus oversaw the 2004 transition from Brokaw to Williams having been Brian's producer at MSNBC from 1997 to 2001. He's been a supervising producer at "Today" and broadcast producer of "NBC News Sunrise." Now Capus will oversee not only "Nightly" but "Today," "Meet the Press With Tim Russert," "Dateline NBC" and MSNBC. "Today" has maintained a substantial lead over ABC's "Good Morning America," which was expected to topple "Today." "A lot of people thought we would be 'Desperate Housewives'-ed into second place," Capus said, referring to ABC's use of the hit show to drive viewers to "GMA." "That hasn't happened because we have a very strong team in front of the cameras and behind the scenes," he said. "Today" star Katie Couric has been courted by Leslie Moonves to take the helm of

CBS' "Evening News," but Capus said he expects to retain Matt Lauer's morning show partner, even as he indicated the show would be fine without her. "Nightly" is chugging along with a 1.7 million viewer lead over ABC's "World News Tonight" and NBC is the only one of the Big Three networks with a permanent evening news anchor in Williams. With that level of stability, Capus said he's spending most of his time seeking new business opportunities in wireless and online.

[From Variety]

Dear Peacock North,

How thoughtful of you to send the NBC newsletter to me. My Uncle Gene Frisch was better than a father to me and it's wonderful and comforting to know so many loved him.

His passing was so unexpected, I had just been to see him in July for his birthday and he was just as warm and round and healthy as ever. I had his power of attorney and health care directive and was at his side at the end. For what it's worth, he had opened his eyes and squeezed my hand the day before and went very peacefully.

Do you all still work at NBC? It's funny in a way, to know someone in one capacity and discover so many new, interesting and unknown facets of his life.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. Happy holidays to you and yours!

Jane Baskins

MY COPY OF THE FALL ISSUE OF PEACOCK ARRIVED TODAY.

I WAS SO EXCITED AT SEEING SOMETHING THAT I WROTE ACTUALLY IN PRINT. IT WAS EXHILA-RATING. I HAVE HAD MY NAME PUBLISHED IN CREDITS FOR FILMS, MAGAZINE PHOTO AND TV CREDITS, AND BEEN INTERVIEWED FOR AN ARTICLE, BUT NOT ONE WRITTEN BY ME.

CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH. GREAT FUN TO RECALL SO MANY HAPPENINGS. JUST TOUCHED THE SURFACE. HOPE OTHERS ENJOYED IT AS MUCH AS I DID DOING IT.

I, TOO, REMEMBER [DON] MULVANEY'S PLATFORM LOADED WITH BOOKS; NICE MAN. HE IS MISSED, I KNOW. HOPE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON KRAFT OR OTHER BROOKLYN SHOWS WOULD WRITE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES.

HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND CONTINUED GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR ENDEAVORS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

ROSEMARIE GARDNER.

Seems that as a college student Jeff Zucker spent a Summer in a special broadcasting course at Northwestern University. This Fall, Jeff returned there to speak to a sold-out crowd. We live a five-minute walk from the school and so I attended the session. As I walked into the studio I was lucky enough to run into the coordinator of the event, a man who used to work for me when I was Executive Officer of the Society of Professional Journalists (after leaving NBC in 1981.) Before the event began, my friend led me to a small waiting room and introduced me to Jeff, who was most gracious and relaxed. We chatted. Then Jeff was into the studio and spoke for about 20 minutes, outlining his enjoyable time on campus that Summer, and what he learned as he moved along in NBC (Gads, I have two children older than he is). I was impressed with him, and not surprised at his steady movement upward.

#### Russ Tornabene

How well I remember the [roof at] 'Rock'. When I was in TV Field, I spent many hours up there with the network microwave Xmtr. It was the first network connection via NJ to Philadelphia for the network before coaxial cable. In Radio field operations we had a transmitter up there where we could use it as a backup when NYT failed. I could tell you stories.

Best wishes, etc.

**Bob Dreier (DR)** 

I spent many hours on the RCA roof in the microwave room. I arrived early one Thanksgiving morning to do the parade before Les Whitehead appeared with the French Door key. A fellow mopping the floor would not let me on the roof. "Maybe you want to jump off," he said.

I waited for Les. After that I made my own key.

#### Frank Vierling

We all remember great times on the "roof". This'll be worth visiting next time we're down. I remember the room at the bottom of the right hand escalator (as you looked out at the rink) going down to the below-ground plaza. One time it had the architects' model of 30 Rock and a video of one of the architects reminiscing about how it was built and anecdotal stuff about John D. It was fascinating...and looks as if they've relocated it now on the roof with the other exhibits.

#### **Peter Flynn**

I enjoyed Rosemarie Gardner's "NBC Memories." It was especially well written.

Also liked Dan Grabel's "Whatever Became of..." Would like to add one, but can't remember the name of one of the restaurants near 30 Rock.

Best Regards,

**Edie Cahill** 

I am over the hill age-wise. The enclosed check is to help with expenses.

Thanks for everything...

#### **Bill Palmerston**

My dad, Floyd Kalber, was a one of a kind guy... charismatic isn't even the word. He'd have been successful in any pursuit he attempted, I'm sure. [The biographical video I made] was a labor of love and I learned one very important thing, and I share this with people all the time... if your parents are still alive, sit them down and do an interview with them. I'm not sure what prompted me to do it, but when dad retired that's exactly what I did. Naturally, it was invaluable for this project... but it can be just as valuable to anyone once they lose their parents... it's an amazing keepsake to have video and audio of your loved ones... to share with children and grandchildren, and to learn some of the amazing things they will share with you when you talk to them about their lives. I found out all these things I never knew about both my parents.

Aloha.

#### Mick Kalber

On December 31st, 2005, I became 80 years young. However, I will pay my \$20.00 dues to such a great cause as yours. I have included a brief summary of my wonderful life at NBC. Hope to make your luncheon on the spring! Regards, **Carl Henry** 



April 30, 1990

Mr. Carl Henry 669 Seaman Avenue Baldwin, New York 11510

Dear Carl:

In reviewing the anniversary dates of our IATSE represented employees, for annual employee awards purposes, your name and start date popped up--February 20, 1948. You are truly one of the NBC-TV staging pioneers.

Over the years, you were involved with facilities that NBC used, but most current employees never even knew existed--106th Street, Century Theater, Colonial Theater, Ziegfeld, Hudson, Centre Theater, RCA Exhibition Hall (Johnny Victor), 67th Street Florida Showcase, 57th Street, McDonald Avenue, 18th Street, Rentar Plaza, etc. Those were the golden years of television-good television, combined with good show business.

I think this is a good time to tell you how much we appreciate your good work, terrific attitude and love of the business. You should be proud of the way you contributed to NBC's growth. In recognition of this, the Company is awarding you a gift of wine glasses and a special service award plaque.

I hope that you are feeling better and will utilize the glasses to toast a continued strong relationship between NBC and you.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Frank McGuinness

Manager

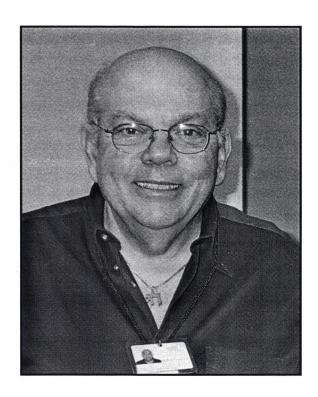
Staging Operations

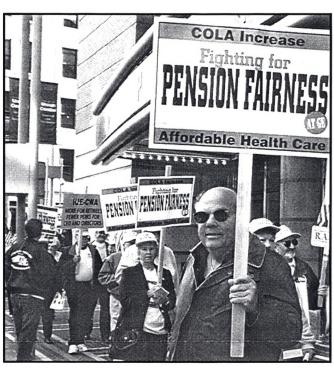
FM: ged

cc: Day Krolik

Mary Stringfield

## Calling All Peacock North NABET Local 11 Retirees! By Marilyn Altman





Peacock North Member Bill Freeda has started a Retired Members Club for NABET Local 11. It is affiliated with the Communications of America (CWA).

In an attempt to assemble the most complete mailing list possible of Local 11 retirees Bill has asked that I share with him the names and addresses of Peacock North Members who are also retired members of NABET Local 11.

I will not do this unless I have your approval, so please let me hear from you. Bill wanted me to let you know that his club differs from Peacock North in that in addition to the social and nostalgic aspect of Peacock North, his club's goal is to bind retirees together for legislative and political purposes.

Bill is also the NABET-CWA National Retiree Coordinator, so if you need any help with any retiree problem feel free to contact him at 800-928-5279, or e-mail him at bfreedanabetcwa@optonline.net

# **Current E-mail Addresses**

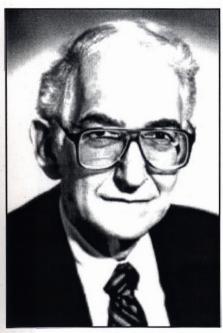
REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify us at **peacocknorth** @**vahoo.com**.

This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.

## "Good Night, Reuven"

Editor's Note: I was among the more than 100 relatives, friends and colleagues who attended the wonderful memorial service at Temple Sinai of Bergen County on February 8th. The speakers were producer Sy Pearlman and Reuven's sons, grandson and granddaughter.

This tribute to Reuven Frank is a blend of two articles: a New York Times obituary by Jacques Steinberg, and a biography by Tom Mascaro from the web page of The Museum of Broadcast Communications. PN readers will easily identify with the paragraph in bold type, as many of us worked in such "filter centers," otherwise known as Inside or Outside Control.



Reuven Frank, a pioneering television news producer whose career at NBC ran from Huntley and Brinkley (whom he first paired on the evening news in the 1950's) to Tom Brokaw (whom he installed as a solo anchor in the 1980's), died February 5th at Englewood Hospital in New Jersey. He was 85 and lived in Tenafly, N.J. The cause of death was complications of pneumonia, said a son, James A. Frank. Donations may be made to Ben Gurion University of the Negev and Englewood Hospital.

Israel Reuven Frank was born Dec. 7, 1920, in Montreal. His father, Moses, was a journalist and teacher. His mother, Anna, was a homemaker. Mr. Frank attended University College of the University of Toronto from 1937 to 1940. But it was only after he left Canada for the United States that he earned a bachelor's degree, in social science, from the City College of New York, in 1942. Mr. Frank later enrolled in the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, but his studies were interrupted by service in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946. The highest rank he attained was sergeant. Among his postings was France.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Frank married Bernice Kaplow on June 9, 1946. Mrs. Frank, a longtime librarian in Tenafly, survives him, along with two sons, Peter Frank of Los Angeles, and James A. of Manhattan; two grandchildren; and a sister, Devora Wagenberg of Fort Lee, N.J.

Beginning with his first job at NBC in 1950, Reuven Frank realized he had an affinity for the process of film editing and an appreciation for the visual power of television, which became the signature of his career in TV news. The process of shaping film clips into coherent stories left an indelible impression on Frank. Competitor CBS News had built its strong reputation in radio, which emphasized words. Camel News Caravan, NBC's original fifteen-minute evening news program, on which Frank served as a writer, evolved from the newsreel tradition. An early partisan of television, Reuven Frank sought to exploit the medium's advantage over newspapers and radio to enable the audience to see things happen. "Pictures are the point of television reporting," he wrote.

This visual sense is clearly evident in the coverage of political conventions. Frank developed a method for orienting a team of four floor reporters--all but lost in a sea of convention delegates--toward live cameras. He established a communication center that simultaneously controlled news gathering, reporting, and distribution. The filter center, linked to the entire crew, advised the decision level when a report was ready for air. On cue from the decision level, the technical team would air the report. This tiered system of communication control became the industry standard.

## "Good Night, Reuven"

Thus, he had all but drafted the blueprint for how to cover a political convention — in the days when such gatherings had more in common with a raucous mystery novel than with a rubber stamp — by sending reporters, microphones in hand, onto the convention floor and then pointing them toward nearby cameras. "Our men are already on the job from coast to coast," Mr. Frank said in a news release issued by NBC on June 8, 1960, a month before the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. "They'll arrive at the conventions with their own assigned delegations or personalities. And when the conventions get under way, our men will belong to and be an integral part of their assignments." He added, "It's a kind of aboveboard and perfectly ethical journalistic 'espionage,' if you will." Similarly, Mr. Frank is credited with conceiving the networks' modern approach to election night coverage, with the results often marshaled to support an overall theme.

The Huntley-Brinkley Report premiered in October 1956, with Frank as producer. He coined the soon-to-be-famous signoff" 'Good night, David.' 'Good night, Chet.'" The program lasted until Huntley's retirement in 1970, when the report was renamed The NBC Nightly News. Frank was the program's executive producer in 1963 when the report was expanded from fifteen to thirty minutes. In a memo to his staff Frank outlined NBC News policies for gathering, packaging, and presenting news reports. The guiding principle for developing NBC newscasts was based on Frank's belief that, "The highest power of television journalism is not in the transmission of information but in the transmission of experience."

Among the award-winning documentaries he also produced along the way was "The Tunnel," a "fly on the wall" account of the escape of 59 East Berliners through a tunnel dug underneath the Berlin Wall. The United States State Department tried to keep the program off the air, for reasons that, as Mr. Frank described in his memoir, remained something of a mystery.

Reuven Frank left his own mark as well on one of American television's premier news reporting services. After advancing through several roles and contributing to the development of a worldwide TV news network, Frank became president of NBC News in the tumultuous year of 1968. He held that position through the coverage of watershed events in the history of TV news, until 1973 when he returned to producing special projects for NBC News. In 1982, Frank was asked again to head the News Division, which he did until 1984. Robert E. Mulholland, then president of NBC, said of Frank's contributions, "Reuven wrote the book on how television covers the political process in America, has trained more top broadcast journalists than anyone alive, and simply embodies the very best professional traditions of NBC News." In a review of Mr. Frank's 1991 memoir, "Out of Thin Air: The Brief Wonderful Life of Network News," Bill Carter of The New York Times described Mr. Frank as a founding father of broadcast journalism, one of a rarefied few "who made up the rule book of television news as they went along" and whose every decision on how to cover a particular event was a precedent. But where CBS programs like Edward R. Murrow's "See It Now" owed much to radio, Mr. Frank's NBC-TV news programs often seemed to be more directly descended from the newsreels shown as teasers before motion pictures in the days before television.

Among Mr. Frank's most durable contributions to television news was his emphasis on the nascent medium's basic advantage over radio and newspapers: that it could impart information through a palette of visual techniques.

In person, Mr. Frank was wise and thoughtful, but with a dry sense of humor — much like Mr. Brinkley's, Mr. Brokaw said. In his later years, Mr. Frank, who could be a tough critic of what he watched on television, also remained in touch with those, like Mr. Brokaw, whose careers and approach to journalism he had helped mold. Mr. Brokaw said in an interview yesterday that he last heard from Mr. Frank in December, in a typically succinct e-mail message, after NBC had broadcast Mr. Brokaw's prime-time documentary "To War and Back." "Tom: Stunning," the message had read. "Reuven." "That," said Mr. Brokaw, "was all I needed to hear."

## Happy News from Opal and Bill Howard



2005 has been a wonderful year for us. We have enjoyed every minute at Westminster Manor.

We have had 3 Major Milestones: June 1st, we celebrated 65 happy years together and are so thankful that we feel so good. In November, we celebrated Opal's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday and in December Bill's 92nd.

We are thankful that Bill can still drive our '89 Lincoln Town Car without any restrictions on his Driver's License and that Opal goes everywhere with him in spite of her Macular Degeneration. We are thankful that Charlotte & Michael with busy careers call us every week and visited us this year, Michael & Vincent in June, Charlotte in July.

Enjoy the Holidays & keep in touch.

Opal & Bill Howard 4100 Jackson Avenue # 11 Austin, Texas 78731 (512) 302-1316 bilhow@worldnet.att.net

## Joe Coggins: From Newswriter to Artist



This is a picture of the new Joe Coggins, Artist, presenting a painting to a new museum in Ocean County, NJ, called the "Hankins Museum" in Lavallette. The museum was dedicated earlier this year. Charles was a master boat builder, having supplied dozens of skiffs to the Navy during WWII and to just about every beach and lifeguard patrol from Maine to Florida.

When I left NBC News in November 1984, I segued into an advisor's role with Doctor Armand Hammer and was one a of a few writers who wrote a so-called White Paper that Doctor Hammer took to the Kremlin to present to Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev in early December of that year. That paper led to Glasnost and Perestroika and the entente cordiale that ended the Cold War. Doctor Hammer told me in Madrid, three days after his trip to Moscow, that he had just received a call from Mr. Gorbachev informing him that he found the paper a justification to go to the ruling members of the Government to get them to agree to taking down the Berlin Wall, starting up some bourgeois enterprises and move slowly into a mini-capitalism. He also promised at that time the wall would start to come down following some diplomatic maneuvers with our State Department.

After that I traveled Europe, eventually winding up as a teaching fellow at the Salzburg Seminars on US-USSR relations. During that trip I visited about half a dozen countries with a view toward learning more about "Communism" as it affected Eastern Europe.

When I came back to the USA in 1985, I was invited into Harvard's Fairbank Center for East Asia Research as its "Journalist in Residence." Fundamentally, while there I followed a doctor's degree curriculum but I didn't go for broke as it required a Chinese language capability. The Fairbank Center is a think tank on China. While at Harvard I went to China in search of some precious palentological fossils called the Peking Man, confiscated by the Japanese at the beginning of World War Two in China, and wrote several papers on the sociology of China in 1986. Although the Chinese government was very hospitable it became clear to me the missing bones were not in China.

During 1987-88, I took an eighteen month motor trip around the United States, Canada and Mexico, debriefing myself of 85 hours of audio tape for my own personal reference. Simultaneously I took 3000 photos and I look at them often and revisit a lot places in the theatre of my mind.

In 1989 I took a job as the Mutual Network's United Nations Correspondent, doing about seven radio spots a week. I worked for Mutual until it folded.

During most of this time I was studying fine art at the Art Students League and the National Academy of Design, the result of which has been that my watercolors are now on display in five maritime museums and some branches of the Ocean County Library system. There are more than 200 of them around and about.

Athletically, I have participated in some middle distance running races and ride a bike about 75 miles a week.

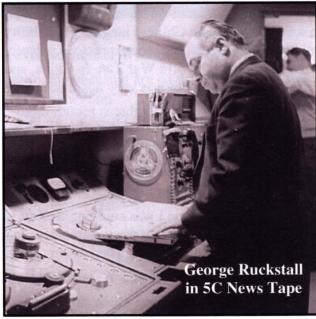
Other than that I haven't done much since I left NBC News. But there is life outside of 49th and Sixth. Love to all.

We Get Photos

## Peter Flynn's Radio Scenes

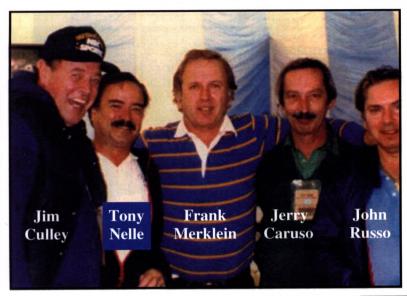






We Get Photos

## From the Harry Katzman Archives





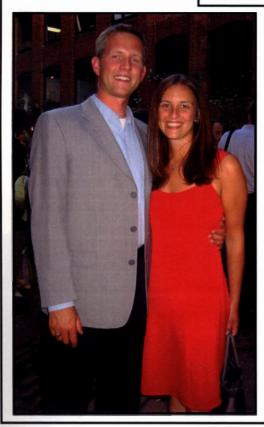






## We Get Letters and Photos

## **Another Blaney Wedding Planned**



From Jim Blaney Jr...

I am proud to announce the engagement of my daughter Shannon to Bradley Branham. Brad is the son of Terri & Mitzi Branham of Sutherland, Virginia.

Brad is a graduate of The University Of Virginia with a B.S. in Computer Science and is presently a Senior IT Consultant for CGI in Fairfax, Virginia.

My daughter Shannon is a graduate of Duke University, receiving a B.S. in Psychology. Shannon also earned her M.A. in Curriculum & Instruction from Teachers College, Columbia University and is presently pursuing her doctoral degree in Literacy Education at Virginia Tech while teaching at Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools.

Shannon and Brad intend to continue living in Reston, Virginia and plan on getting married in December, 2006 in Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

## Gabe's 75th Birthday Bash in 1999

WNBC's Liz Fischer sends us these photos



With Mayor Rudy Giuliani



Mayor David Dinkins (partly out of frame),
Retired State Supreme Court Judge Burton Roberts,
Jack Shanahan - NY Press Club, WABC's Bill Beutel,
and WNBC's David Diaz and Chuck Scarborough salute Gabe

We Get Pictures

"The Arlene Francis Show" at 67th Street



The successor to "Home" was "The Arlene Francis Show." Unit Manager Elmer Gorry sends us this group photo to tease our memories. Several folks have spotted 1-Bill Bonner, 2-Lee Carlton, 3-Larry Owen, 4-Dave Lalicata, 5-Ted Nathanson, 6-Frank Gaeta, 7-Bob Bartnik, 8-Norman Paris, 9-Carol Burnett, 10-Arlene, 11-Hugh Downs, 12-Frank Manfredi, 13-Henry Kinard, 14-Eddie Hugh, 15-Billy Rose and 16-Elmer Gorry. Can you spot any more?

## Send Us **Your** Memories!

The editor counts on your letters, photos and memorabilia to be the basic content of the magazine. There has been a decrease in the quantity of new material, which is one reason for this issue being smaller than others. Don't be shy! Your colleagues love to see these items, so keep 'em coming. With grateful thanks, Joel Spector.

We Get Photos

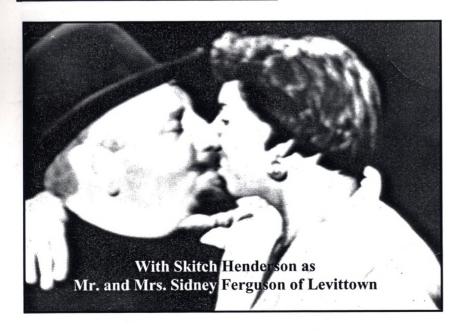
## Will the "Reel" Marilyn Jacobs Please Stand Up!



Unknown to many PNers, our own Marilyn Jacobs was a regular member of Steve Allen's "On the Street" gang, along with Louis Nye, Tom Poston and various guest stars. At right is the actual MJ, surrounded by four of her alter egos, direct from her scrapbook.



Marilyn started out as Steve Allen's secretary, then became a Production Assistant and eventually Associate Director on the show.





"Spirit of '76" A New Feature



As suggested by Bambi Tascarella, we invite members to submit photos showing their activities during Bicentennial Year 1976.

Here Bambi is bookended by anchormen John Chancellor and David Brinkley during political convention coverage.

Where were **you**? Please share those photos and memories with all of us!

## Honorary Momberships

Please note that members who are 80 years young or more are exempt from paying annual dues. Our records are missing information for many members. We ask that those who fall into this category complete and return the membership form on Page 27 so that we can update our records. These members are not required to pay dues. If you so wish, you may email your information to us.

# Looking HJAA

Scanning the September 1966 : New Hork Times

## NBC Plans 5-Play Drama Festival for Spring

By Val Adams

The rivalry of the television networks to outdo one another in prestige drama continues to grow. Under development for the National Broadcasting Company is a drama festival next spring that would offer five one-hour original plays on successive evenings.

Television sources confirmed yesterday that the project, the first of its kind ever undertaken by a commercial network, was well along in planning, although some important details remain unresolved.

The proposed date for the drama festival is the week of April 17. From Monday through Friday, probably at the same hour each evening, the network would pre-empt regularly scheduled shows. David Susskind, producer, said yesterday that playwrights had already been commissioned to write the plays, but he declined to identify them.

Two advertisers have made tentative agreements to sponsor the dramas, the Xerox Corporation and the Celanese Corporation. A third is being sought. Air time and production might cost each of three sponsors close to \$l-million, an unusually high outlay for advertising in a five-day period.

Donald L. Clark, vice president of corporate advertising for Xerox, said yesterday that his company had been interested in the drama festival from the beginning.

"We are working on it," Mr. Clark said from his office in Rochester. "We hope we can pull it off, and we'll know in 10 days or two weeks."

It was reported that Xerox and Celanese first asked N. B. C. to televise the drama festival in January, but the network said it could not pre-empt five evenings of programming in the middle of the season.

14.

	BEST SELLER LIST	
This Week	Fiction	Weeks on list
1	Valley of the Dolls. Susann	26
2	The Adventurers. Robbins	23
3	Tai-Pan. Clavell	13
4	The Detective. Thorp	8
5	The Source. Michener	67
6	Giles Goat-Boy. Barth	2
7	Tell No Man. St. Johns	25
8	The Double Image. MacInness	32
9	Saturday the Rabbi Went	
	Hungry. Kemelman	2
10	I, The King. Keyes	10
	General	
1	How to Avoid Probate. Dacey	21
2	Games People Play. Berne	58
3	Human Sexual Response.	
	Masters & Johnson	17
4	The Last Battle. Ryan	24
5	Papa Hemingway. Hotchner	20
6	Flying Saucers-Serious Business.	
	Edwards	5
7	Two Under the Indian Sun.	9
8	The Big Spenders. Beebe	7
9	In Cold Blood. Capote	33
10	Tinkerbelle. Manry	4

## Helicopter 710 Traffic Reports

WOR's Helicopter 710 covers road and traffic conditions throughout the metropolitan area... tells you where the tie-ups are...suggests faster alternate routs. Brought to you by NEWPORT CIGARETTES & CHEVRON GASOLINE.

Broadcast times were listed.

## Margaret Sanger Is Dead at 82; Led Campaign for

Birth Control Special to the New York Times

TUCSON, Ariz., Sept, 6 – Margaret Sanger, the birth control pioneer, died this afternoon of arteriosclerosis in Valley House Convalescent Center. She would have been 83 years old on September

Margaret Sanger poses before leaving Brooklyn Court of Special Sessions after her arraignment, October 1916.

(Originally selecting jail time, she finally accepted bail. Photo from the Internet - ED)



#### Labor Day 1966 - ILGWU Ad



"Let them march in their rags"

And they did.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of Monday, September 3, 1894, the first national Labor Day Parade in American History started up Fourth Avenue in New York City.

About "one-half of the city," it was estimated by the *New York Herald*, turned out to see the 12,000 men and women march. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, marched with the cigar-makers' union.

The night before, thousands of garment workers went on strike in protest against the sweatshop and to "establish a ten-hour day with regular pay."...

Dramatically, just before the parade, a delegation of women garment workers appeared before the New York Central Labor Union.

The women were embarrassed. "They have very poor clothes," explained a delegate, "many of them are little better than rags,"

"So much the better," another delegate responded. "Let them march in their rags so that the New York public may see how they are treated." And they did...

### WHAT'S ON NBC TV - Friday, September 2, 1966

	WIIAI DON	111	oc I v — Triady, Se	epien	nuer 2, 1900
7:00	Today Show (Color)	1:30	Let's Make a Deal Color)	8:30	Sing Along With Mitch
9:00	News; Bob Wilson	1:55	News; Floyd Kalber		(Color)
9:05	Birthday House	2:00	Days of Our Lives (Color)	9:30	Mister Roberts:
9:50	News; Gifford (Color)	2:30	The Doctors		"Captain, My Captain?"
	Eye Guess (Color)	3:00	Another World (Color)	10:00	
	News; Vanocur (Color)	3:30	You Don't Say (Color)	MION	"The King of Diamonds
10:30	Concentration	4:00	Match Game (Color)	1000000	Affair" (Color)
	Chain Letter (Color)	4:25		11:00	News
11:30	Showdown (Color)	4:30	Film: "My Lucky Star"	11:30	Tonight Show; Carson
1335	Afternoon	911.39	Evening	1	(Color)
12:00	Jeopardy (Color)	6:00	News; Jim Hartz (Color)		Late Night
	Swingin' Country (Color)	7:00	Huntley-Brinkley (Color)	1:00	News; Bob Teague
12:55	News; Edwin Newman	7:30	Camp Runamuck	1:15	Great, Great Show
1:00	P.D.Q. (Color)	8:00	Hank: "Operation Matriculation"	13	

On Channel 13: Survey of the Arts; Brazilian Painting and Sibelius Festival — ABC: The Flintstones, Addams Family, Honey West and Court Martial — CBS: Wild, Wild West, Hogan's Heroes, Gomer Pyle, Night Football and the Late Show — WNEW: Winchell-Mahoney Time, The Rogues, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Movie Greats: Now Voyager followed by the Merv Griffin Show — WPIX: Superman, Rawhide, Lloyd Thaxton Show, Night Baseball, Movie: The Lady and the Monster.

## ON THE SILVER SCREEN

Exclusive NY Showing, *BORN FREE* at the 72nd Street Playhouse; *ALFIE* was at the New Embassy; At the Music Hall, *HOW TO STEAL A MILLION* with Audrey Hepburn and Peter O'Toole; *DIABOLIQUE* was playing at the Plaza; "LIZ SIZZLES" in *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF* at the Victoria; Reserve your seat for *THE BLUE MAX* at the Sutton; At Loews State *FANTASTIC VOYAGE* takes you inside of you.

## U.S. FORCE IN WAR RAISED TO 303,000

3,000 Landed This Week — Combat Deaths at 4,889

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Sept. 1 (AP) — Landings this week have poured 3,000 more Americans into the Vietnam war, which is expected to engage 400,000 by the end of the year. The United States command disclosed today that the total of land, sea and air forces has risen to 303,000.

Fresh casualty reports show American combat deaths in the war approaching 5,000. Eighty-seven deaths last

## Playbill

Tandy and Cronyn in A Delicate Balance – Ilka Chase was starring in Barefoot In The Park – Bacall was in Cactus Flower and Fiddler on the Roof won 9 Tony Awards – Hello Dolly starred Ginger Rogers and Mimi Hines was Funny Girl – Gene Wilder and Barbara Bel Geddes in the comedy LUV; Angela Lansbury was MAME – Best Musical in 1966 was Man of La Mancha – Show Boat starred Barbara Cook and David Wayne – Gwen Verdon made Sweet Charity into a "Joyous bawdy romp."

week pushed the five-year total to 4.889...

...US planes hammered targets in North and South Vietnam.

B-52 bombers again bombed suspected infiltration routes in the demilitarized zone...

## Black and White Submitted by Barney Blake

You could hardly see for all the snow, Spread the rabbit ears as far as they go. Pull a chair up to the TV set, "Good Night, David. Good Night, Chet."

Depending on the channel you tuned, You got Rob and Laura or Ward and June. It felt so good. It felt so right. Life looked better in black and white.

I Love Lucy, The Real McCoys, Dennis the Menace, the Cleaver boys, Rawhide, Gunsmoke, Wagon Train, Superman, Jimmy and Lois Lane.

Father Knows Best, Patty Duke, Rin Tin Tin and Lassie too, Donna Reed on Thursday night! Life looked better in black and white.

I wanna go back to black and white. Everything always turned out right. Simple people, simple lives... Good guys always won the fights.

Now nothing is the way it seems, In living color on the TV screen. Too many murders, too many fights, I wanna go back to black and white.

In God they trusted, alone in bed they slept,
A promise made was a promise kept.
They never cussed or broke their vows.
They'd never make the network now.

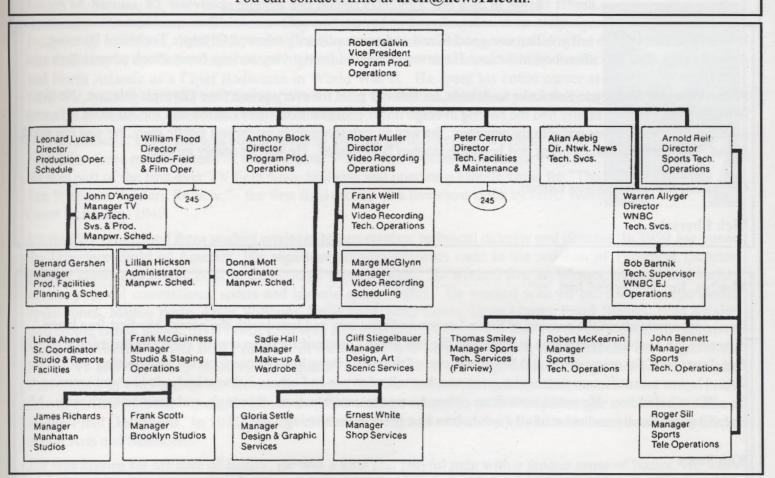
But if I could, I'd rather be
In a TV town in '53.
It felt so good. It felt so right.
Life looked better in black and white.

I'd trade all the channels on the satellite,
If I could just turn back the clock tonight
To when everybody knew wrong from right.
Life was better in black and white!

### A Peacock Feather from 1981

Arnie Reif was NBC's Director of Sports Technical Operations. He is presently Director of Operations for News 12 Westchester (including Rockland and Orange Counties), where he is keeping his organization equipped with the latest newsgathering, editing and transmission technology. Arnie sent us an NBC Organization Chart from 1981. It is part of an entire Production Manual. We'll print one department from it in each subsequent PN issue. Look for yourself and your colleagues. It's fascinating to see how we are interwoven to make up the whole fabric of NBC.

You can contact Arnie at areif@news12.com.



## **Tributes to Silent Microphones**

## Joseph James Caridi



Joseph James Caridi, age 89, of Cape Coral, FL died on February 7, 2006 at his home. He was a former NBC-TV engineer in New York and an executive board member of NABET. He grew up in the Chelsea District of Manhattan, and was later a resident of Washington Twp., NJ where he enjoyed using his talents to build his own home and was a volunteer fireman with the local fire department.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Theresa (nee Van Rooyen). Funeral Mass will take place in Florida. For certain his epitaph will read "I DID IT MY WAY!!" Published in The Record and Herald News on 2/16/2006.

## Tributes to Silent Microphones

## Steve Laxton Olympic TD

It deeply saddens me to tell you that our good friend and extraordinarily talented Olympic Technical Director, Steve Laxton, died this afternoon in Texas. He never recovered from a very serious heart attack several days ago.

From Atlanta to Sydney to Salt Lake to Athens, he was our pilot for every prime time Olympic telecast. No one in our entire Olympic family had the batting average under pressure that Steve Laxton had for all of us. He was always prepared...he was unfailingly generous...he was an extraordinarily warm and gentle man...he was our good friend. His combination of talent and humanity cannot be replaced. He will be sorely missed.

God speed the soul of Steve Laxton.

Dick Ebersol

Marilyn, Jim, Lenny and Joel,

I was sent a note about the passing of Steve Laxton and was very saddened with the news. My first free lance directing job for NBC sports was in 1968 and the last game I directed for them was in 1986. In the middle of all that, I was staff for many years and Steve was one of the new young lions to come on the engineering staff in the 70's. He was a cameraman then and a great one, but talked to me and others in those early days about wanting to be a TD or a director. He could have done either; he was talented, patient, thorough, and great to work with. My prayers to his family and most of all I salute him as a great human being.

**Ken Fouts** 

## Al Finelli

December 27, 2005

In your next tribute to Silent Microphones you might add the name of Al Finelli, Video Tape Group 5 who died of heart failure on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Al and Jean had moved to Florida after his retirement and have been down here for 17 years. I received the news from George Kiyak who's now residing in Alabama.

As always,

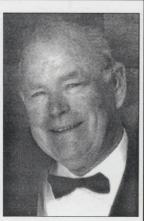
Marge McGlynn

## **Tributes to Silent Microphones**

## Joe Strauss Remembered by his daughter Janis Maloy

Joseph M. Strauss, 82, television pioneer and retired executive, has died in Solana Beach, California. He was born in Oklahoma City and moved to Los Angeles at an early age. Joe grew up in Venice, California, and was a Boy Scout, surfer and amateur radio operator. Enlisting in the Coast Guard out of high school, he was a veteran of both the Pacific and North Atlantic as a Chief Radioman in World War II. He spent his entire career at NBC-TV, retiring in 1985 as Director, West Coast Operations. Joe died peacefully at home on November 8, after a short battle with cancer.

On November 1, 1948, Joe was one of seven in the first group of engineers hired by NBC Television three months ahead of the inaugural West Coast broadcast on January 6, 1949. He was part of the first-ever TV field team, building and operating Mobile Units for "The Tex Williams Western Review," the first field pickup of a live show done by NBC West Coast in January 1949.



Joe quickly progressed from student engineer to cameraman, technical director and director. In 1959 Joe joined the Directors Guild of America. His signature accomplishments were in the position of Technical Director, guiding crews and productions in exceptional camera work. He worked live broadcasts, musical and variety shows, political conventions, sports and historic space flights. He worked with all the stars: George Gobel, Spike Jones, Milton Berle, Andy Williams, Ernie Ford, Jerry Lewis, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire, Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, Elvis Presley, Rowan and Martin and others. He was TD on the Apollo 10 pickup on board the Aircraft Carrier USS Princeton in the Pacific, and Kennedy Launch Site broadcast coverage for the Apollo 11 and Apollo13 missions. Joe guided the tumultuous coverage of the Chicago and Miami national conventions in 1968 and 1972. He was nominated for four Emmys as Technical Director. He was union president of NABET for two terms. He joined the NBC management team in 1968, as Manager and later Director of Studio/Field Operations. In 1971, Joe was elected to the Board of Governors of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Joe was known for his love of family. He was a kind and playful man with a unique sense of humor. He was a talented fresh and saltwater fisherman who fished Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and the High Sierras. For years his favorite vacation spot was Lundy Canyon in the Eastern Sierras. His other passion was "ham" radio. Receiving his amateur radio license when he was 16, he kept his call "W6RUF" active, talking regularly with high school friends and colleagues from NBC until shortly before his death.

After retirement, Joe moved from the San Fernando Valley to Del Mar with his wife, Loretta, to be closer to his children and their families. For+ twenty years in San Diego County he found new pursuits in local community television, surf fishing, golf and grandchildren. Loretta preceded Joe in death in 1995 after 50 years of marriage. During the past several years he enjoyed traveling to New Zealand, Alaska, Europe and Ireland with his wife of six years, Helen Grace Strauss.

Joe leaves behind his wife Helen; son, Barry Strauss; daughters, Sharon Baldwin, Janis Maloy, and Joann Bobele; and 10 grandchildren as well as a large extended family. The family requests donations be made to Scripps Green Cancer Center, 10666 N. Torrey Pines Rd., mail drop 109-N, La Jolla, CA, 92037.

Joe was one of the most outstanding persons I knew in NBC. Many of the New York people who have done work here on the West Coast will agree with me. I came to work at NBC West Coast to start television with six other new hires in November of 1948. Joe was one of them. In 37 years I can honestly say that I never heard a bad word said about Joe Strauss. **Bill Palmerston**, Retired Production Manager.

## Tributes to Silent Microphones

#### Janet Falcone



Janet Wirth Falcone, widow of pioneering NBC audio engineer Phillip F. Falcone, died on July 26, 2005 at age 86.

She was the mother of two sons, Phil Jr, a prominent video editor in New York, and Roger, a physicist at UC Berkley in California. She was the grandmother of four.

After graduation from Western Reserve University, and then for more than fifty years, Janet worked in publishing as a respected copy editor for a range of books from highly technical to best sellers.

A memorial service was held in New York City on August 20, 2005. Your editor was honored to be included in a family luncheon at which three generations of relatives and close friends warmly remembered Janet and Phil.

## Robert J. McKearnin

Bob McKearnin passed away unexpectedly on January 25th at age 58. He had visited his friends and colleagues at 30 Rock only days prior to his death. The funeral service was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Washington Township, NJ.

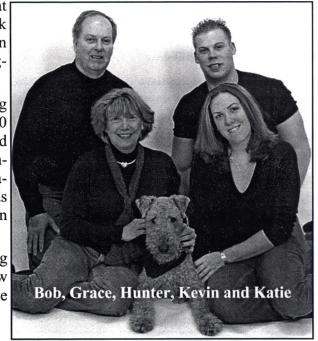
His various posts at NBC included Director, Manpower Planning and Scheduling in TOPS, Technical Manager for studios at 30 Rock and Brooklyn and at the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996 and at Salt Lake City in 2002. He was a free-lance Technical Manager for "As The World Turns" after NBC sold the Brooklyn facility to JC Studios. Bob was the recipient of two EMMY awards for his work on the 1978 World Series and Super Bowl XIII in 1979.

His father, James, was the Head Carpenter in Studio 8H during the 1960s, '70s and '80s, supervising a large and devoted crew on such major programs as "Saturday Night Live" and "Live From Studio 8H."

Donations may be sent to the American Heart Association.

Bob's wife Grace writes:

Bob read the Peacock North Newsletter from cover to cover. He was with NBC for 30 years and loved every minute of his career there. He was proud to be a part of the NBC Family. I guess you could say he was "Proud as a Peacock." Our family appreciates all the support and kind words through this difficult time.



# Peacock North 2006 Spring Luncheon REPLY FORM Due by May 10th

I am 80 years young (or over) an Honorary Men	nd qualify	Name
I am 80 years young (or over) an Honorary Men	nd qualify	y for Honorary Membership.  NOT pay dues.
Honorary Men	nbers do l	NOT pay dues.
Danawal Na changes to	o informa	ation previously sent.
Kenewai—No changes u		action previously sent.
Changes only	OR	New Membership
Street	City	·
StateZip	Phone	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
E-mail Address		
At NBC from'til		
Dues:	\$20 Pe	r Year
Year 200	)6 IS NC	OW DUE

Mailing Address: PO Box 16755

Stamford, CT 06905

Open to NBC Employees with 15 Years or more service.



## **Your contacts:**

Marilyn Altman
Jim Marshall
Lenny Stucker
Joel Spector
(Peacock North Editor)

E-mail: peacocknorth@yahoo.com

**Mailing Address:** 

PO Box 16755 Stamford, CT 06905

# New Peacock North Members

Max Kramer worked in engineering and building maintenance from 1967 until 1997. He and wife Agnes live in Maspeth, NY

Tony Pedalino worked in corporate facilities from 1979 until 1994. Tony lives in Livingston, NJ

Pat Millman worked at WNBC Radio and then in the Lucy Jarvis Documentary Unit. She lives in Manhattan.

Sally Hughes is a Technical Manager for NBC Sports. She lives in Plainfield, NJ

Joe Alicastro has been at NBC from 1978 to the present and serves as a Producer of News Specials. His wife, Miki, was at NBC from 1980-1990 as Manager, News Film Editing and then Production Manager, NBC Sports. They have lived in Rowayton, CT since 1984

Peacock North P.O. Box 16755 Stamford, CT 06905

Presorted First Class U.S. Postage

**PAID** 

Permit No. 103 Marietta, OH

First Class Mail

Dues were due— January 1, 2006