



Jeff Zucker to be Keynote Speaker

This year's gathering will be held at Atlantic Grill/Lincoln Center, located in the former O'Neals' space, located at 49 West 64th Street between Broadway and Central Park West.

The fun happens from Noon to 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 22nd.

We're pleased to announce that Jeff Zucker, former CEO of NBC Universal, has agreed to be our Keynote Speaker.

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

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



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Marilyn's Page



What a difference a few months can make! Our world has changed drastically during this winter. Climate change was not the only thing making headlines in our part of the world, although it did make up for a great deal of news, chatter and travel delays.

I thought I would be writing only about the change in NBC's new ownership from GE to Comcast, with Steve Burke and Brian Roberts at the helm, and a re-cap of "Day One", as the change-over was dubbed. Instead, the entire world has been rocked with the incredible events in the Middle East. Due to the reportage of our brave correspondents and crews we have all had a seat to this amazing history unfolding in front of us on our television / computer / cell phone / iPad screens. I hope I didn't miss any handheld digital device. Talk about our world being rocked!

On another note, Spring, I hear, is actually coming and so is our much-heralded annual gathering. Last year someone asked me how I could possibly repeat the fabulous time we had with Bob Costas as our keynote speaker. Well, Jeff Zucker is this year's keynote and I suspect he will give Bob a run for his money. We are all looking forward to it. Please be sure to send in the brunch reservation form on page 27 of this issue, along with your check, as soon as possible.

My last word will be a challenge to all of our members. Many have asked me how they can contribute to Peacock North. I ask that all of you encourage just one NBCer who is not a member, to join. I would like to increase our membership without having to knock on everyone's individual door, so I ask that you do that for the health of this wonderful organization. All of you who get the magazine have the membership coupon on page 27 of this issue, or we can email it to you for convenience. Please do your part; it will make us stronger and more connected.

And now for the best part, the magazine...

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

Current E-mail Addresses

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

What's Now!

Comcast takes control of NBC Universal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The nation's largest cable TV company, Comcast Corp., took control of NBC Universal after the government shackled its behavior in the coming years to protect online video services such as Netflix and Hulu. The deal closed shortly before midnight EST on Friday, January 28th.

The takeover gave the cable-hookup company 51 percent control of NBC Universal, which owns the nation's fourth-ranked broadcaster, NBC; the Universal Pictures movie studio and related theme parks; and a bevy of cable channels including Bravo, E! and USA. The combination had raised fears that Comcast might abuse its control of NBC Universal to favor its most valuable customers: the 23 million who rely on it for cable TV service and the 17 million who pay for Internet connections. But the Justice Department and Federal Communications Commission imposed conditions that prevent Comcast from keeping to itself NBC Universal's popular shows such as "The Office" and movies including "Despicable Me" for the next several years.

NBC's "30 Rock" on Thursday night spoofed Comcast's impending takeover from General Electric Co. As a clock bell sounded, a neon "GE" atop an office building fizzled out and was replaced by a "K" inside a swoosh resembling Comcast's logo. "Wow, out with GE, in with Kabletown," said Tina Fey's character, Liz Lemon. "Seems like one of us should sing 'The Circle Game' right now."

Conditions imposed on Comcast were serious, though. Regulators forced Comcast to make the full suite of NBC Universal content available as a single package to online competitors on terms comparable to those reached with more established rivals such as Dish Network Corp. and DirecTV. NBC Universal is also expected to match new deals for smaller chunks of programming between other media firms and online video providers if it has comparable programming on hand. As an example, NBC Universal might have to make the Bravo channel's "The Real Housewives of New York City" available to Netflix Inc. if Viacom Inc. cuts a similar deal for MTV's "Jersey Shore." The company also had to give up the decision-making power associated with its 32 percent share of Hulu, the online video service it co-owns with The Walt Disney Co., News Corp. and Providence Equity Partners. Hulu is one of the services that makes viewing "30 Rock" possible online.

The rules highlight the new battleground for entertainment in the home between traditional power players such as Comcast, which has lost subscribers in the economic downturn, and companies such as Netflix, which added them with its cheap service and compatibility with a range of devices. Netflix ended the year with 20 million customers after adding 3.1 million during the fourth quarter, by far the most during any three-month period since its service launched in 1999.

In the deal, Comcast paid General Electric just under \$6.2 billion in cash and contributed its pay TV channels such as E! Entertainment Television and The Golf Channel, worth \$7.25 billion, to NBC Universal. GE's stake in NBC Universal fell to 49 percent from 80 percent, but GE plans to diminish that to zero by being paid out from the venture over about seven years. Earlier this week, GE bought out the 20 percent stake held by France's Vivendi SA for \$5.8 billion in order to complete the deal. As part of Comcast's takeover, NBC Universal changed its corporate logo to NBCUniversal — without the space, the peacock or the globe silhouette. Officially, the company's name is still NBC Universal, but the space-less design is meant to represent the unity of its two main divisions.

Ahead of a town hall meeting with their new corporate bosses on Thursday, some 25,000 NBC Universal employees each received a certificate for 25 Comcast shares, worth \$22.84 each on Friday; a family pass to one of the Universal theme parks; and other materials, including a "Big Idea Book" in which they were to record their own.

—From The Associated Press, January 29, 2011

What's Now!

President Obama Names Jeff Immelt to head Government Council

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama wants to cast some light on economic success stories in the shadows of a slow recovery. And he is looking to find some more.

On January 21st, the president travels to Schenectady, N.Y., birthplace of the General Electric Co., to showcase a new GE deal with India and announce a restructured presidential advisory board to focus on increasing employment and competitiveness.

Obama is naming GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt as the head of a Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. The panel replaces Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, which had been chaired by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. Obama announced late Thursday that Volcker, as expected, was ending his tenure on the panel.

Obama, in a statement after midnight, said the council's mission will be to help generate ideas from the private sector to speed up economic growth and promote American competitiveness.

"We still have a long way to go, and my number one priority is to ensure we are doing everything we can to get the American people back to work," the president said.

For Obama, the visit to upstate New York is also an opportunity to claim credit for tax, trade and energy policies pursued by his administration as the nation attempts to recover from the worst recession since the 1930s. It's the first of many treks during the second half of his term that the president is expected to take to put a more hopeful countenance on the economy amid stubbornly high unemployment. The GE plant is benefiting from a power turbine contract with India announced during Obama's Southeast Asia trip in November. Immelt also has been an advocate of alternative forms of energy, and the GE facility, the company's largest energy plant, is the future site of GE's advanced battery manufacturing program. New battery technology has become something of an Obama pet project as a symbol of innovation, clean energy and job creation.

"This is a company that has brought jobs from overseas back into the United States," Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

The White House said GE completed a \$755 million agreement with India's Reliance Power Ltd. to supply gas and steam turbines for a power plant expansion in India. The deal will allow for about \$500 million in exports from the United States, the White House said, and help support 1,200 manufacturing and 400 engineering jobs in the Schenectady plant.

Obama also plans to take note of GE employees as examples of middle class Americans who are benefiting from the payroll tax cut he negotiated with Republicans in a December economics package that retained Bush-era tax rates for all taxpayers. And he is expected to make a pitch for new business incentives and renewable energy tax credits contained in that compromise deal. GE and GE customers would benefit from those provisions.

In Immelt, Obama has a useful corporate ally. As chief executive of a multinational company, Immelt was one of 20 CEOs who met with the president during a daylong summit at Blair House last month. He was one of 14 U.S. business leaders invited to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao this week at the White House and was among the guests for the lavish state dinner that followed.

In an opinion piece Friday in the Washington Post, Immelt said the restructured council under his leadership would focus on manufacturing and exports, trade and innovation.

"The president and I are committed to a candid and full dialogue among business, labor and government to help ensure that the United States has the most competitive and innovative economy in the world," he wrote.

His appointment adds another corporate insider to the White House orbit, underscoring the administration's efforts to build stronger ties to the business community. Earlier this month, Obama named former Commerce secretary and JPMorgan Chase executive William Daley as chief of staff.

The change also signals Obama's intention to shift from policies that were designed to stabilize the economy after the 2008 financial meltdown to a renewed focus on increasing employment, a vexing task that could affect his re-election efforts. The White House says the board's mission will be to help generate ideas from the private sector to speed up economic growth and promote American competitiveness.

The advisory board has included past government officials and representatives from labor and the corporate community. Volcker has been a regular White House adviser, though the board itself has met infrequently with the president.

Immelt has been supportive of Obama since the start of his presidency, though his political contributions tend to be bipartisan and he financially supported Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republicans John McCain, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney during the 2008 presidential campaign.

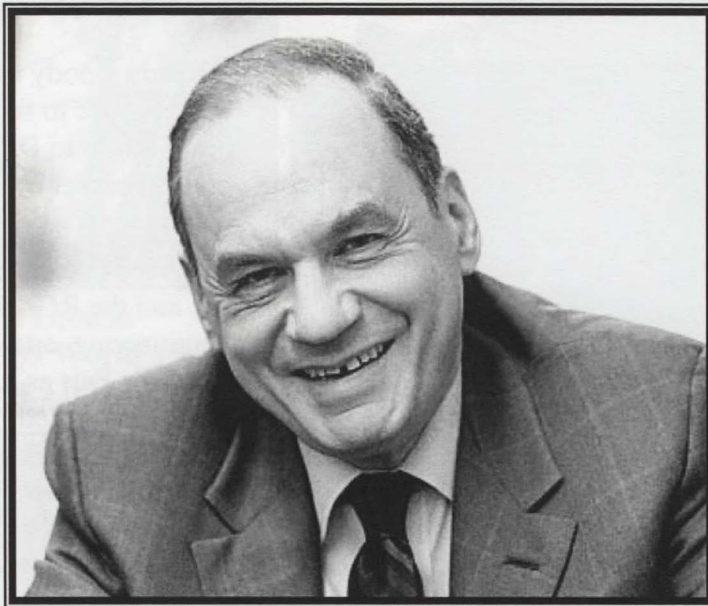
General Electric employees and their spouses, however, supported Obama over any other presidential candidate.

—From The Associated Press, January 21, 2011



We Get Letters

**A note from Ed Newman's Daughter
to Bambi Tascarella**



Dear Bambi,

Your [DVDs], showing the Nightly News on September 15, have arrived safely.

My mother and I wish to thank the whole team for the magnificent tribute to my father. You captured what many who knew him only as a broadcaster, or from his books, have told us, as indeed what his former colleagues have said. [I should explain that my mother who is in London (while I am in Oxford) has yet to see the program, but I have given her a full account].

We are astonished by how many archive recordings and photographs you unearthed and squeezed in, such as the shot in front of Big Ben; the clip from my father's interview with Emperor Hirohito; and the famous bubble bath in Istanbul. And the more somber moments from the 1960s conjured up those times, while the footage on the day of the assassination attempt on President Reagan was extraordinary. You also managed to indicate the breadth of my father's work: documentaries; Meet The Press; the Today Show: Conventions; Presidential Debates; The Nightly News itself and more. You must have worked flat out over that day, but then you are the Nightly News team! We had been told by friends in the USA about the clip from SNL, but it was still a fine surprise to hear my father singing. Brian Williams' decision to ignore my father's injunction and to speak so eloquently (as he had throughout) about my father's love of language brought the sequence to a most fitting end.

I was fascinated to watch the whole program and see your tribute in context. We are well aware that you are approaching a Very Big News Day on November 2nd. We will be thinking of you and wishing you well.

Finally, on a personal note to you, Bambi, thank you for troubling to send the discs. This response has been slow because my computer had to be fixed before I could watch the program. But still, my apologies.

And I should add that my spam filter has been faulty and so I hope it has not screened out any "unfamiliar" emails from the USA, though certainly a good many have come through safely.

With warm good wishes,
Nancy Drucker

We Get Letters and Pictures

LEON DOBBIN - A CAREER IN TELEVISION



From Howdy Doody to Newscenter 4... from Philco Playhouse to the Great Wall of China... from Kate Smith to Dr. Ruth... Leon reveled in his over 40 year career in television and especially at NBC.

Leon attended Freeport High School, Nassau College, and the RCA Institute, where he studied radio engineering, and landed his first job at the 1939 World's Fair as a cameraman demonstrating something new called "television!" From there he went to RCA in Camden, NJ, and worked on the research and development of the first commercial radar equipment for the U.S. Navy. In 1947, as its chief engineer, he put WHLI radio on the air. Leon joined NBC in 1948 as a cameraman, then a video engineer, and finally a technical director.

Shows that he was fortunate to work on read like a history of the Golden Age of Television: Philco Playhouse; Goodyear Playhouse; Kraft Theatre; Howdy Doody; Milton Berle; Kate Smith; Perry Como; Your Show of Shows; Your Hit Parade - in color!; Macy's Thanksgiving Parade; Orange Bowl Parade; Miss America; Political Conventions (including the 1964 Goldwater Convention and the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention); Moon Shots; the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination; President Nixon's Visit to China; as well as the seven days leading up to his resignation; and Newscenter 4 -- from its groundbreaking debut in 1974 until his retirement in 1983. From there, Leon went on to direct for the emerging new cable competition, most notably "The Dr. Ruth Show" which was live and unrehearsed and the perfect fit for him!

But what Leon missed most after leaving NBC were the people - and the chance to walk down any NBC hallway at any hour of the day or night and strike up a conversation with someone on any and every subject. After retirement, he continued to enjoy those opportunities for conversation at regular lunches with former NBC colleagues on Long Island... and he attended his last luncheon on December 16, 2009 - when he still enjoyed "chewing the fat" with the guys.

In retirement, Leon also enjoyed boating and fishing on the eastern end of Long Island, and his oceanfront condo in Long Beach, especially when his great-grandchildren came to visit. He is survived by his son, two granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren. And me!

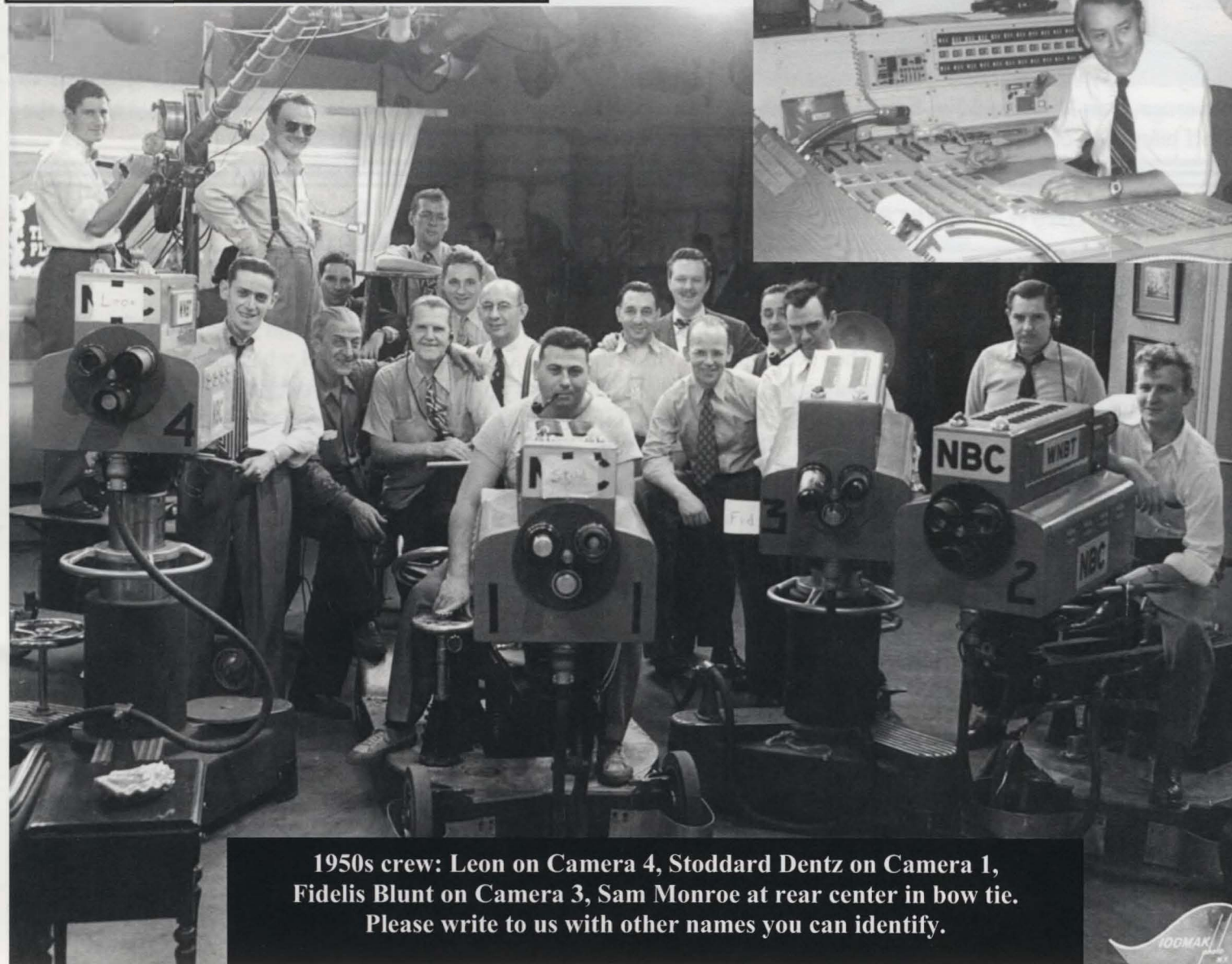
Leon and I met in Studio 6B on a Bob Stewart Production. He was the video engineer and I was a 'gofer' who needed a phone which I mistakenly thought was his - so I always asked his permission before using it... he never disabused me of my error. We married in 1973. And it was a great 37 years!

On December 18, 2009, Leon fell and just didn't bounce back. Leon's final fade to black was on April 8, 2010, at 92 years of age.

Mary Alice (Mickey Dwyer) Dobbin



Above Left & Right: Leon at RCA Television Exhibit, 1939 World's Fair. Center: Leon as Newscenter 4 TD in 6B-1980s.



1950s crew: Leon on Camera 4, Stoddard Dentz on Camera 1, Fidelis Blunt on Camera 3, Sam Monroe at rear center in bow tie. Please write to us with other names you can identify.

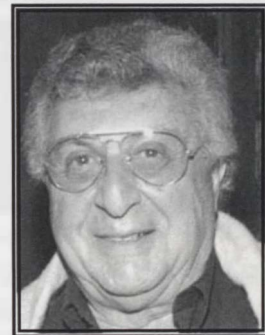


What's Now!

CBS Sports' Frank Chirkinian Remembered by Michael Nathanson

[Ed. Note: Frank Chirkinian, the longtime golf producer for CBS Sports who produced 38 editions of the Masters and helped turn it into one of the most watched events in sports television, has died at age 84. He produced his first PGA Championship in 1958, and, in 1960, the first televised Winter Olympics from Squaw Valley.]

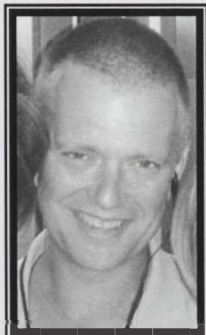
I was Chairman of New Regency Pictures, the Warner Bros.-based company that made the movie "Tin Cup", of which I was the Executive Producer. Our Director, Ron Shelton, asked me who should play the guy in the truck. I asked my Dad (Ted) if he wanted to do it and he said "No, it's Frank's sport." My dad, always the gentleman. A few years later my dad came in and rescued Director Penny Marshal in the movie "A League of Their Own" with Tom Hanks. She had a Czech cameraman who spoke no English, and it was a mess when it came to how to shoot baseball. So I brought my dad in and he shot all the base running and base stealing, and loved the line "There is no crying in Baseball". Well, they loved Ted and we at Columbia, where I was President, were very happy. All [these memories] on the day Frank died. Well, almost all these men are gone and we miss them, but their legacy lives on!!!



Terry Ewert writes that he was quite touched by "Jim Nantz--wearing his CBS blazer--on NBC's March 6th Golf coverage. Dan Hicks and Jim handled the tribute with a great amount of grace and reverence. It was great to see the Golf television community coming together to salute one our industry's greatest architects."

Today Show Camera Ace Bob Jaeger Recovering from Serious Head Injury

Reported by Today Show Lighting Director Howard Strawbridge



Today Show camera ace Bob "Rope" Jaeger was in town with his family on February 20th and took quite a fall. They were going to take the subway back to their hotel when he somehow fell down 10 to 15 subway stairs. He was out and woke up in Bellevue surrounded by family. He has two broken ribs, a shattered clavicle, and blood on the brain due to a severe concussion.

I visited with him for about three hours on February 26th and he was in pretty good spirits. By February 28th a CAT scan showed no swelling but for sure a bad concussion, and he has some short term memory loss.

Rope loved the card from the TODAY crew with all the one-liners. He even cracked his first joke since the accident and made me hoot! He is overwhelmed by the phone calls of love and get-well-wishes. PN readers can send cards to

Bob and Kathy Jaeger
27 Honeysuckle Drive
Norwalk, CT 06851

He was seen by three doctors on March 1st, all with good results. As of March 7th, Rope is still on the mend and is feeling much better. His doctors have told him that his type of head injury usually has only a 10% to 20% survival rate. Boy, what a hard head he must have! I will try to keep you all up to date and have taken up a collection to give him a little help. For those wishing to donate please mail your contribution to

Howard Strawbridge
61 Tuckahoe Avenue
Eastchester, NY 10709

What's Now!

A Look at Atlantic Grill/Lincoln Center Spring Brunch Location



This year's event will be a buffet brunch - and here is the menu...

Cold Buffet

Fresh Fruit Salad, pineapple, melon, fresh berries

Mixed Baby Lettuces, manchego, fine herbs, cabernet vinaigrette

Hot Brunch Buffet

Country Scrambled Eggs, maple ham, spinach, aged cheddar, hash browns,

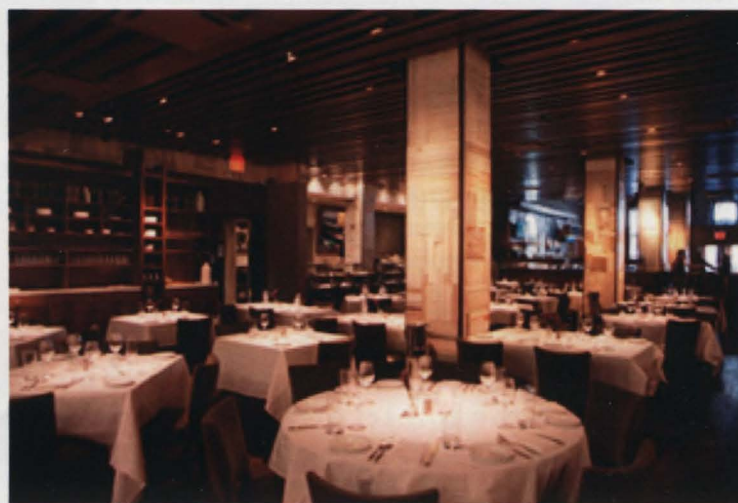
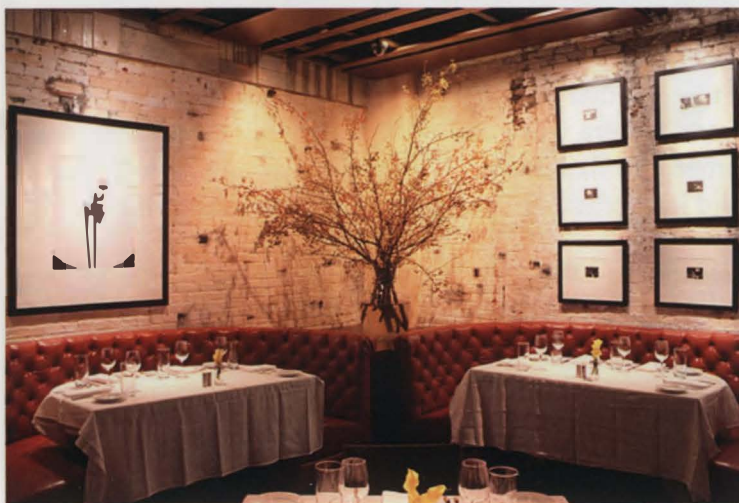
Belgian Waffle, fresh berries

Beverages

Unlimited Juice, Coffee and Tea Selections Included.

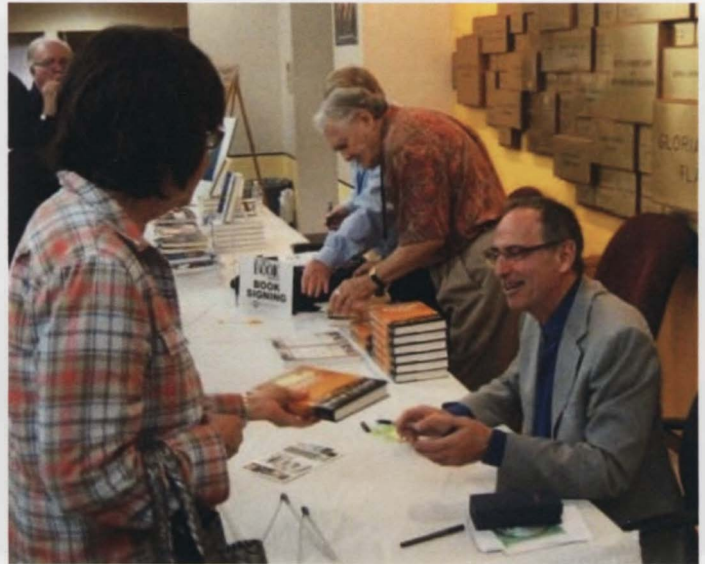
All other beverages including soft drinks, bottled water, cappuccino, espresso, gourmet teas and cocktails will be charged upon consumption.

In addition, the bar will be exclusively ours during our Noon to 3 pm time slot.



What's Now!

Martin Fletcher in Florida By Don Blair



Award-winning TV and radio journalist Martin Fletcher paid a visit to Sarasota, Florida on November 13th as part of the Jewish Book Festival at the sprawling Jewish Federation campus. The event hosted no less than ten authors of books on ten different evenings, about all facets of Jewish life: the Holocaust, civil rights, cooking and religion. Martin, who stepped down from decades as one of NBC's finest overseas correspondents in January of this year, was there to proudly discuss, sign and sell his latest book, "Walking Israel, A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation." [Ed. Note: He has since returned to the NBC airwaves to cover the recent Egyptian revolution as well as other Middle Eastern political unrest.]

I couldn't wait to meet the man who must have led one of my radio network hourlies a few hundred times. As is customary, Martin would file an on-camera piece for the NBC TV network and write a voice-over equivalent for those of us at the radio net. I was not disappointed. He was friendly and informative when he detailed his book and his walk which began in 2008 and took him down the entire coast of Israel, stopping along the way to talk to countless Israeli citizens. He explained that the coastal area is where 70% of Israel's population lives peacefully together, both Arabs and Jews. This is not the Israel we see in the news most days and nights and he wanted to learn more about the people, their problems, their conflicts and their everyday lives.

On November 13th a packed house of three hundred enjoyed his over 30 minute talk followed by another half hour of questions and answers. As we chatted prior to the talk, he told me that he had joined the Visnews outfit in the early 1970s to get his feet wet, find a place in our business, learn camera work and position himself for a career that brought him no less than five Emmy Awards® along with numerous other equally prestigious awards. Along the way he also worked for the BBC as a newswriter. The man did his homework and it paid off handsomely for decades for NBC.

He left with a copy of my book, now out in paperback and I went away with both his new book plus an earlier and very insightful book, in paperback now, titled "Breaking News", which was highly acclaimed when first published. Asked what he would do now he answered "write books...more books." I asked him where he calls home these days. That answer was....Tel Aviv, London and New York. A man of the world and I look forward to just about anything else he decides to write about. It won't be dull.

What's Now!

Long Island Lunch Bunch



The most recent meeting of the Long Island retirees lunch bunch convened at Noon on January 11th at Domenico's Ristorante in Levittown. Seen in the photo - standing: Vito Catalanotto, Bill Freeda, Vince Gabriele, Joel Spector (Junior Member), Frank Gaeta, and Tony Romeo (Senior Member). Seated are Bernie Braun, Danny Staiano, Murray Vecchio and Hank Huestis. Stories from now and then, often amplified, clarified and embellished, complemented the fine cuisine we all enjoyed.. Anyone interested in joining us for these monthly gatherings should contact Joel Spector at jspec@ix.netcom.com or 917-855-2889.



MONITOR
THE NEW NBC RADIO SERVICE

Alumni Get-together

Former Monitor alumni meet in New York for a mini-reunion.

Left to right: Suzanne Lavallo Bothamley, is a real estate broker with Coldwell Banker Funkhouser Realtors in Harrisonburg, VA; Angela Ladas Vierville, now retired, was an Anchor/Reporter for KSAT-TV in San Antonio for 31 years; Beryl Pfizer, writer/producer/director, also now happily retired; and Pauline Barfield, the owner of a major New York P. R. firm, Barfield Public Relations.

We Get Pictures

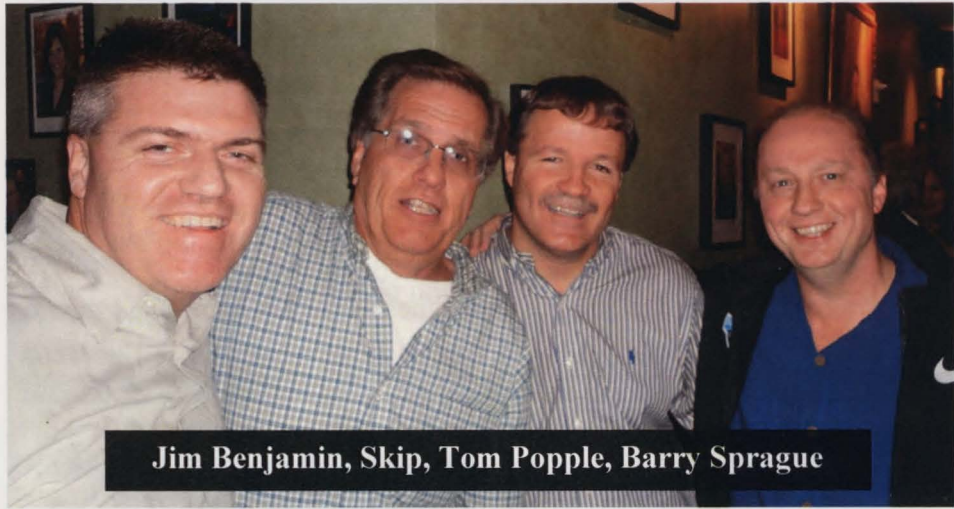
Skip Dresch Retires



On October 13th Skip Dresch, a 38-year second-generation NBC veteran, wife Kimberly, and a boat-load of friends celebrated his retirement and imminent move to Florida.

Left, "What Retirement Has Done to Skip!"

Right, Florida Residents Messers Walter Dresch, Senior and Junior.



Jim Benjamin, Skip, Tom Pople, Barry Sprague



Doug Skene, Frank Pellegrino



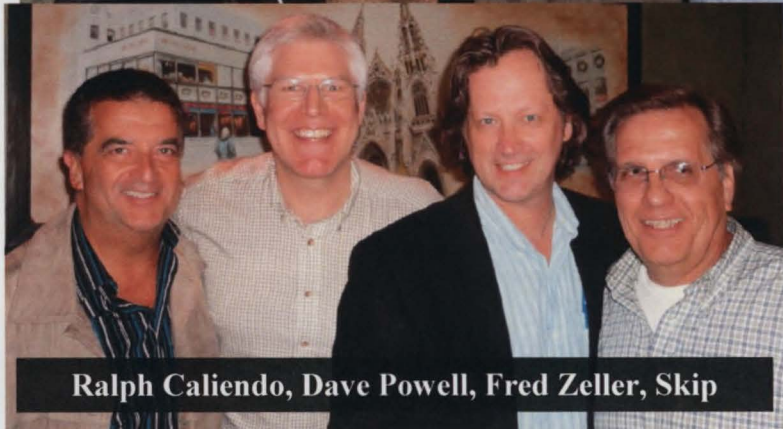
Doug Nelson looks on at Joyce Hurley, John Libretto and Kathy Powers Nelson



Bambi Tascarella, Lauren Fairbanks and Roberta Spring



George Ann Muller, Les Rothenberg, Skip, Andy Hope, Bob Hickey, Paul Scrabo



Ralph Caliendo, Dave Powell, Fred Zeller, Skip



Mary Beth Scalici, Kim, Mary Muzina



Joe Friedman



Fred Bass



Pat Lang



Judy Farinet



Ray Herbert

Skip writes to PN: I started with NBC in 1972. My dad got me a vacation relief job in Video Tape on the 5th floor. There, Walter Balderson took me under his wing and taught me the ins and out of Video Tape. He was a constant source of instruction. As a video tape operator I enjoyed travel with the Sports department and with NBC News. In 1975 a group of us traveled to Europe for the Helsinki Peace Conference with then-President Ford. We traveled to four Communist countries. This was the first time NBC used EJ instead of film. Sometime in 1979 I became a TD. During that time I traveled mostly for Sports. In 1984 I began my soap opera time in the Brooklyn studios. During that time I worked on 7 Miss America's, all sorts of live pickups and received an Emmy in 1986 for "Outstanding Individual Achievement for Technical Team— Studio Show." Thanks Bob Levy!

Looking back on my time at NBC, I'm very grateful for a life of friendships that we made. There is one person I thank the most: my dad, Walter Dresch. I hope I've made him proud.

We Get Pictures

Mike D'Avi Retires

Mike's 37-year career at NBC covered stints in the Film Exchange and the Videotape Library, then Videotape Supervisor, work with "Tapeless Dateline," and finally DPS Capture Manager. On January 27th a large group of his friends gathered at the Pig 'n' Whistle to celebrate his newest assignment!



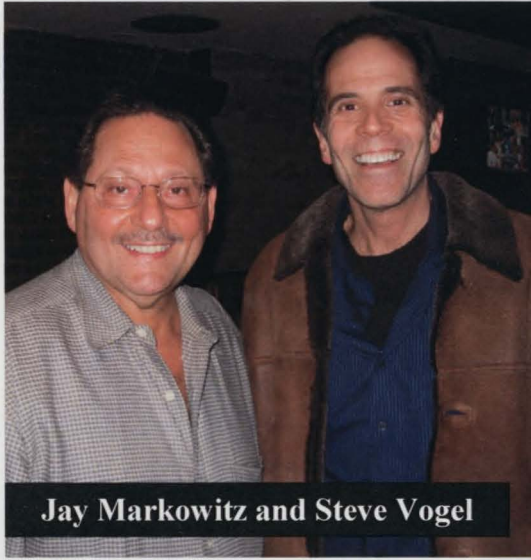
Jesse Redd



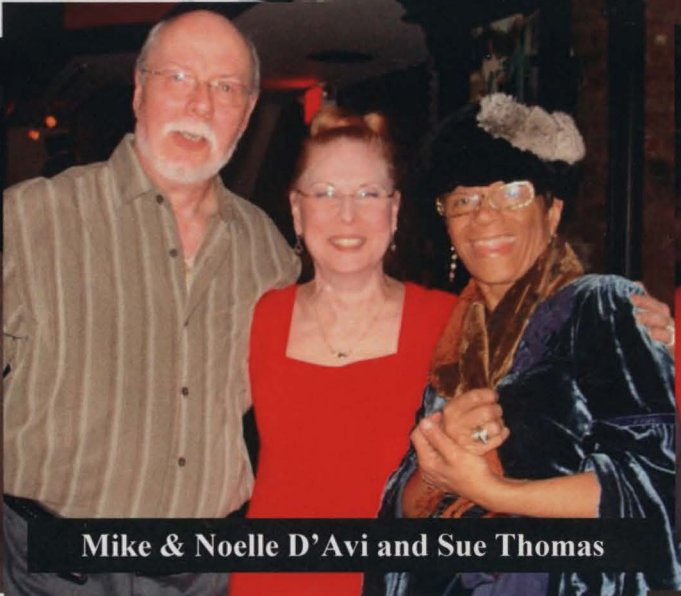
Kathy Salvio with Mike



Party Organizers Mike McManus and Donna McCarthy with Tim Gorry



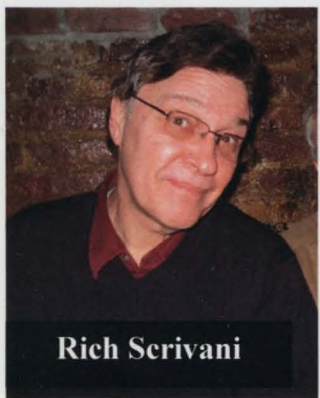
Jay Markowitz and Steve Vogel



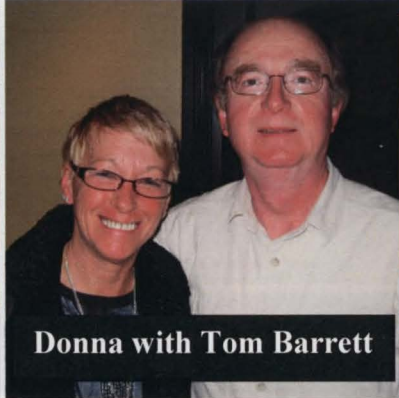
Mike & Noelle D'Avi and Sue Thomas



John Russo



Rich Scrivani



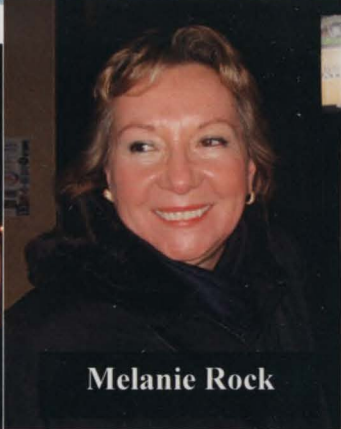
Donna with Tom Barrett



Mark Jankeloff



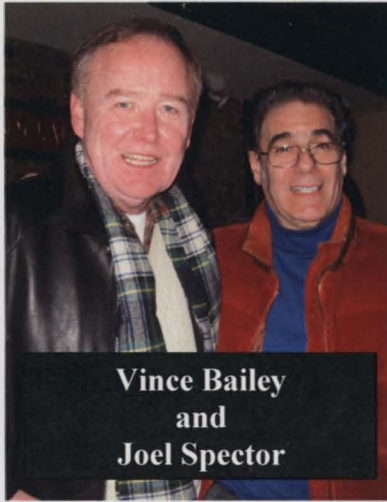
Terry Tousey



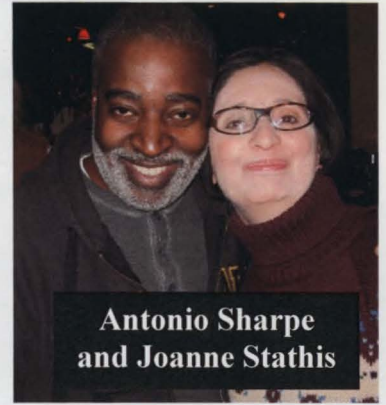
Melanie Rock



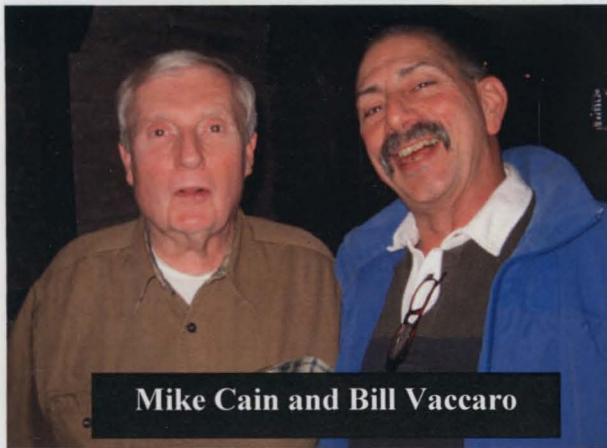
Mike, Harvey Marshall and Marty Slota



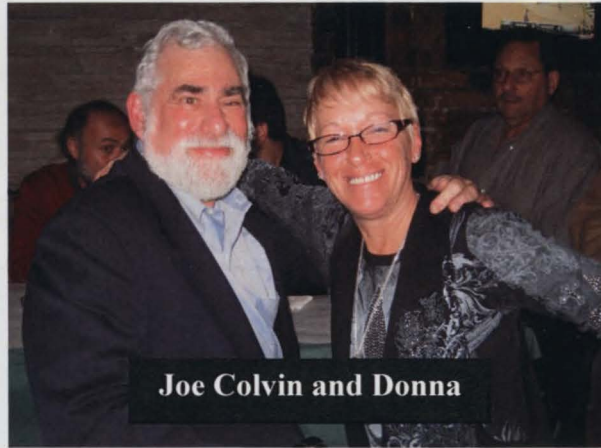
Vince Bailey and Joel Spector



Antonio Sharpe and Joanne Stathis



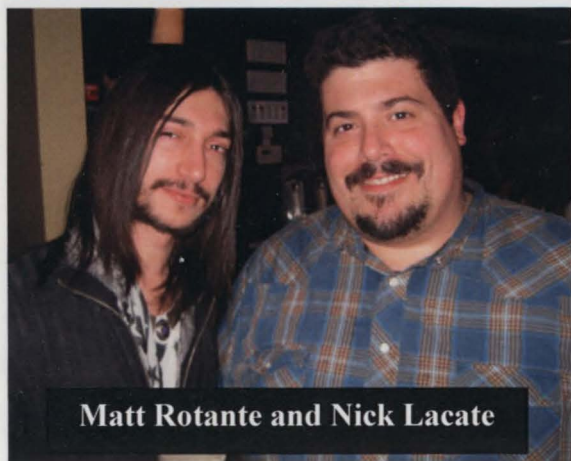
Mike Cain and Bill Vaccaro



Joe Colvin and Donna



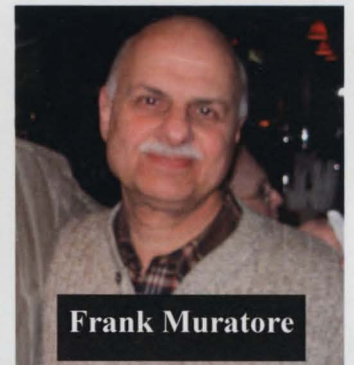
Lauren Fairbanks



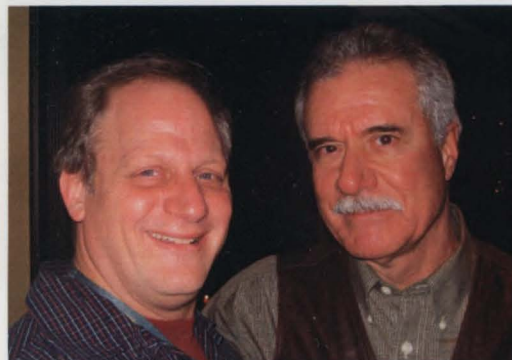
Matt Rotante and Nick Lacate



Sue Thomas and Fran Cimino



Frank Muratore



Bill Clarke and Ron Bruno



Paul Scrabo



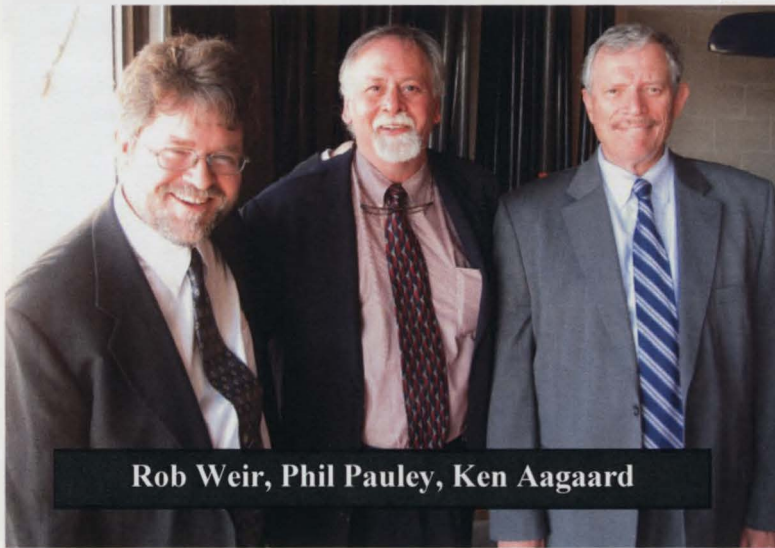
George Ann Muller, Kathy Babiak & John Walker

We Get Pictures

“Cue the boat!” - A Jack Weir Special Event



Above, L&R: The refurbished racing shell before and after christening as the JOHN J. P. WEIR by Barbara and her family.



Rob Weir, Phil Pauley, Ken Aagaard



**A toast from the Weirs:
John Jr, Rob, Patty and Barbara**

Well, October 9th was indeed spectacular. Family, weather, guests, memories and memorabilia; even a knockout 20-minute video prepared by his sons John and Rob - and the lakeside setting at the Caspersen Rowing Center near Princeton, NJ! Jack had been a leader in the development and expansion of this institution, which serves local high school athletes and prepares them for eventual Olympics participation.

From NBC past and present, Don and Marjorie Kivell, Ken and Emerald Aagaard, Charlie Jablonski, Robin and Terry Ewert, Phil Pauley, Dave Mazza, Joyce Campbell, Alexis Janaro, Ed Goldberg, Brian Brown, and your Editor. About 30 other family members and friends from all parts of Jack's varied interests including horse racing, musical theater and competitive rowing. To cap it all off, a racing shell was re-christened the "John J. P. Weir" with Barbara drizzling champagne over the bow. The event started and ended ("on time!") with the ringing of the NBC Chimes.



Rob's son John Stevens Weir with Don and Marjorie Kivell



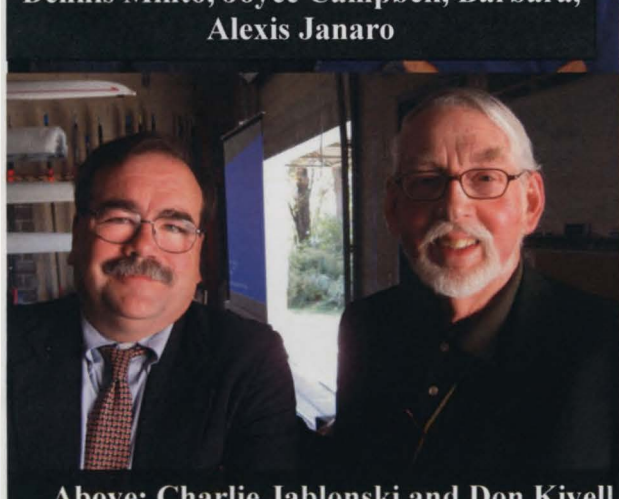
Ken and Emerald Aagaard with Rob.



Dennis Minto, Joyce Campbell, Barbara, Alexis Janaro

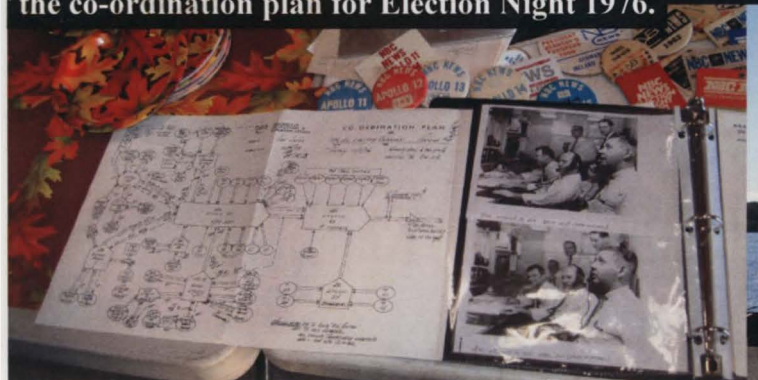


Robin and Terry Ewert



Above: Charlie Jablonski and Don Kivell. Below: Part of Jack's huge archive, including the co-ordination plan for Election Night 1976.

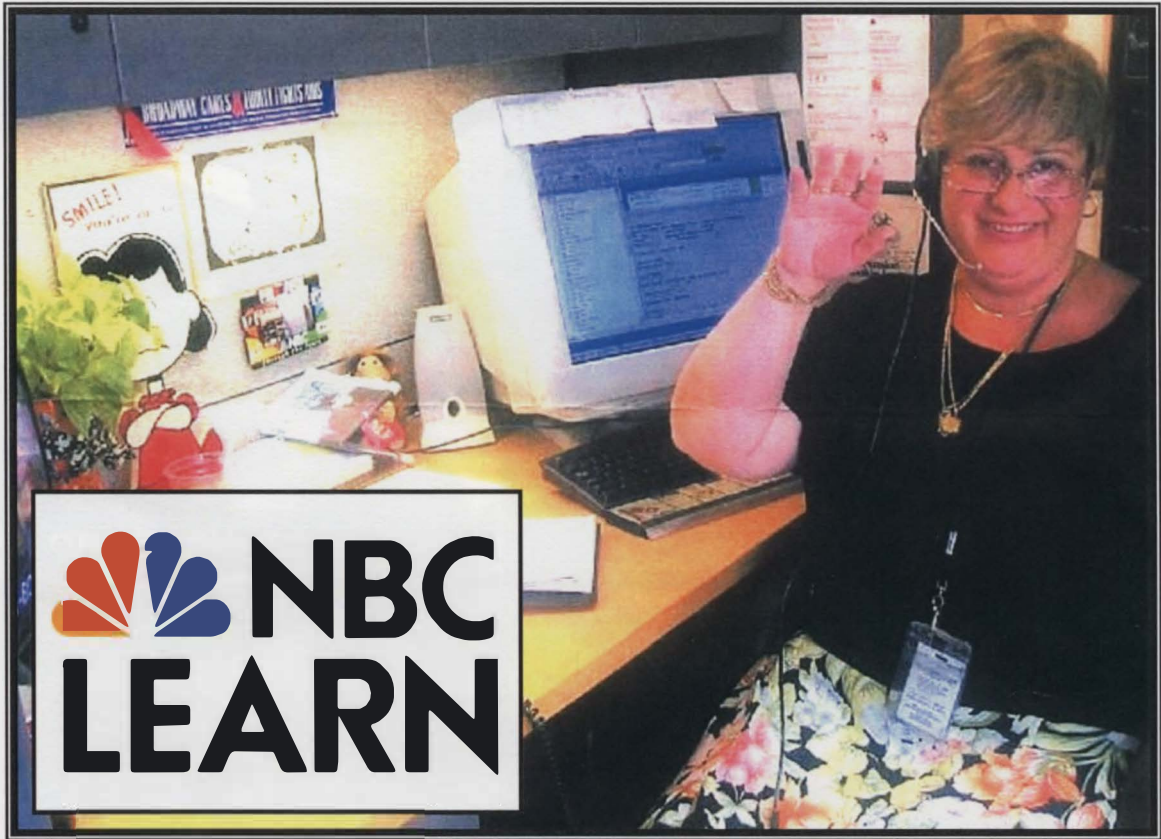
Above (L): Jack as a young lad, and (R) with Barbara at the 2008 PN bash. Below: The view from the Boat House



What's Now!

NBC LEARN MAKES NEWS ARCHIVE AVAILABLE TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

by Christopher Tiné, Producer, NBC Learn



**NBC
LEARN**

Long-time NBC News archivist Carol Aerenson, who first came to NBC News on January 25, 1971, came out of retirement four years ago to work on a project dear to her heart. NBC Learn was created in 2006 as the education-arm of NBC News. The group has digitized thousands of stories from the NBC film and video archive and is making them, as well as the latest current events, available to over 700 schools across the country. Countless teachers and students are using the NBC Learn videos for classroom teaching, distance learning, and to embed in projects and presentations. “With her invaluable knowledge of the NBC News archive, Carol was pivotal to the success of the NBC Learn project. She has worked tirelessly to track down thousands of stories, documentaries, specials and field cassettes, many of which are being shared widely for the first time,” said Soraya Gage, Executive Producer of NBC Learn. Teachers and students absolutely love these videos because they bring to life subjects like History, English, Science, Government & Politics and more for High School and College students. Now students can watch the space race, the struggle for Civil Rights and Women’s Rights, the history of Native Americans, and the fall of the Berlin Wall, as NBC News reported them at the time! “All of the stories catalogued in this great building, in this great network, that’s all the raw materials of education,” said Brian Williams.

Peacock North members, many of whom produced, shot and edited these stories, can sign up for a FREE 30-day trial to watch videos from the archive – just visit <http://archives.nbclearn.com> and click “Get Free Trial.” You can also share feedback and suggestions with the NBC Learn team at contactus@nbclearn.com.

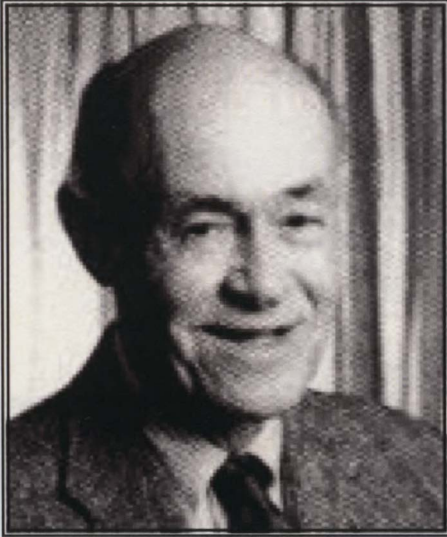
We Got Pictures

2000 Democratic Convention in Los Angeles
Photo from Bambi Tascarella



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Bill Monroe



Bill Monroe, a television journalist whose long career with NBC included stints as the network's Washington bureau chief and moderator of its Sunday interview program, "Meet the Press," died on February 17th at a nursing home in Potomac, MD. He was 90. The cause was complications of hypertension, his daughter Lee Monroe said. He moved to the nursing home after taking a fall in December.

From 1975 to 1984, Mr. Monroe was the producer and moderator of "Meet the Press," the long-running Sunday morning news program built around interviews with national and international figures. He was its fourth producer and moderator, succeeding Lawrence E. Spivak, after serving as a panelist himself. On camera Mr. Monroe was serious and direct. In 1976, soon after becoming the permanent moderator, he grilled Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, who had once championed segregation and was running for president. "Have you personally changed your views about segregation?" Mr. Monroe asked. When Mr. Wallace did not respond directly, Mr. Monroe

interrupted him and repeated the question twice more. Mr. Wallace went on to say that race relations were better in the South than in other parts of the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter used a "Meet the Press" interview with Mr. Monroe to announce that the United States would boycott the Olympics in Moscow that year to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Mr. Monroe was previously Washington editor of the "Today" show; before that he was NBC's Washington bureau chief. After retiring from NBC in 1986, Mr. Monroe was editor of The Washington Journalism Review and worked for the Defense Department as ombudsman for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper. His last job was editing The Early Bird, a compendium of newspaper stories the Pentagon sent to bases around the world.

William Blanc Monroe Jr. was born in New Orleans on July 17, 1920, and graduated from Tulane University with a degree in philosophy and a Phi Beta Kappa key in 1942. He worked for United Press while in college and served in the Army Air Forces in the Mediterranean during World War II.

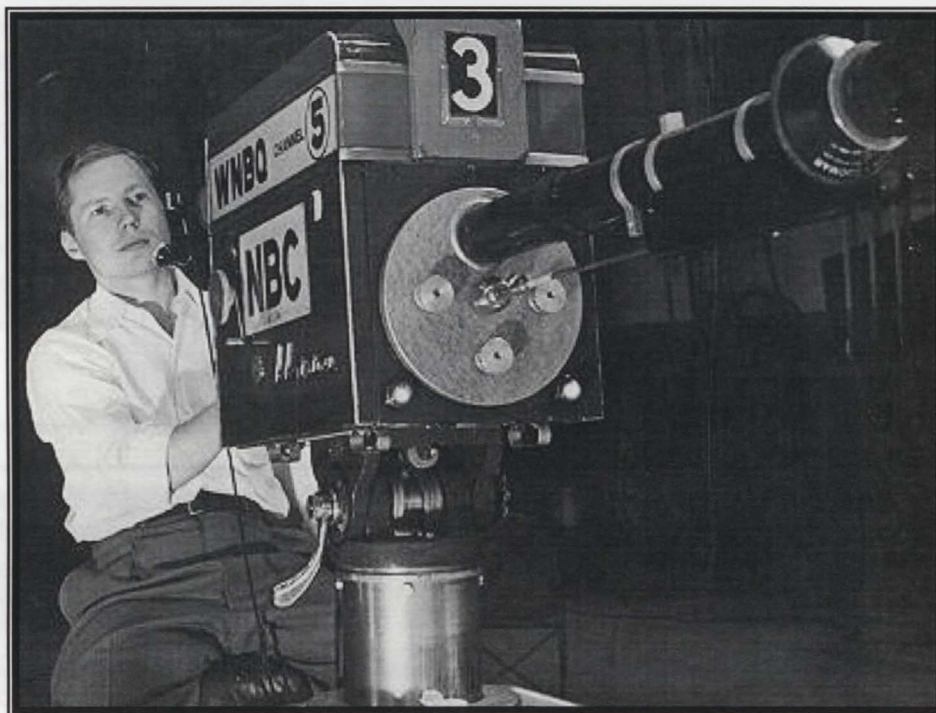
After the war he worked as a newsman on local radio and a local newspaper in New Orleans before becoming news director of WDSU's AM, FM and television stations in New Orleans. As part of the job he began writing editorials and delivering them himself, many of which called for calm during the early days of the civil rights movement. Some editorials provoked death threats. In 1959, WDSU-TV won a George Foster Peabody Award for work done under Mr. Monroe's direction. He also won a Peabody in 1973 for his news reporting on the "Today" show. Early in his career, Mr. Monroe fought for greater press access to courtrooms and legislative chambers. In 1972, he testified before Congress to criticize the fairness doctrine of the Federal Communications Commission. Saying he was speaking for himself and not NBC, he argued that instead of being licensed and regulated by the F.C.C., broadcasters should be accorded the same unfettered First Amendment rights as newspapers. He testified that the regulatory system led broadcasters to fear that Congress or the F.C.C. would discipline them for political reasons. The result, he said, was that they felt "boldness equals trouble with the government, blandness equals peace."

In addition to his daughter Lee, Mr. Monroe is survived by three other daughters, Arthe Monroe Phillips, Catherine Monroe and Maria Monroe Poole; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

--By DOUGLAS MARTIN, New York Times

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Bruce Berquist



Bruce S. Berquist, 85, of Pensacola, FL died on January 29, 2011. Mr. Berquist was born in Miami, FL on May 20, 1925, but was a resident of suburban Chicago until he retired to Pensacola in 1986. He served in the Army Air Corps as a radio operator during WWII.

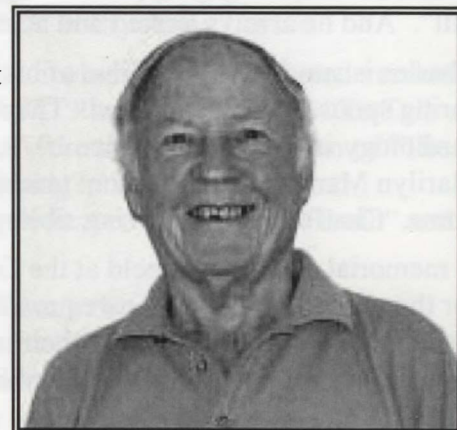
He was employed by the National Broadcasting Company for 35 years, which included 13 years of travel with NBC Sports as a Technical Director.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Berquist. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughters, Beth Morrison (Bill) and Anne Hallman (Donnie) both of Pensacola; and wonderful twin grandchildren, Will and Sarah.

Funeral Service was held on February 2, 2011 at Harper-Morris Memorial Chapel.

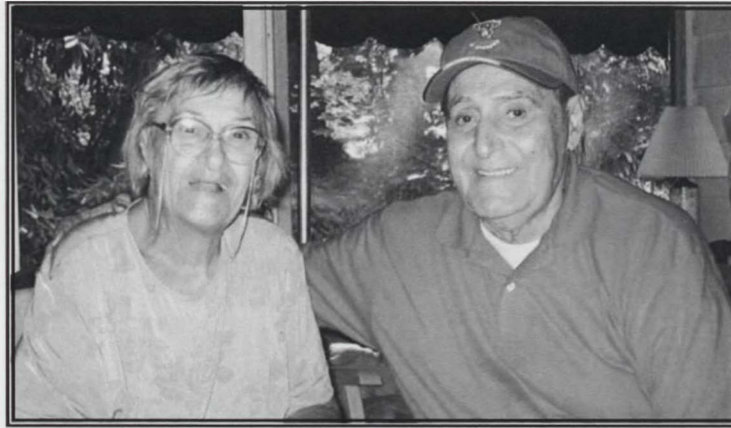
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Covenant Hospice, 5041 North 12th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32504.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Covenant Hospice for the care and compassion they gave Mr. Berquist and his family.



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Charles Mangano Remembered by his son, Charles Jr.



Charles A. Mangano of Tuckahoe, NY, passed on to his new life on December 16, 2010. He was born on February 11, 1918 to Angelo and Maria Mangano of Mt. Vernon, NY, the sixth of ten children. Angelo had emigrated from Italy in 1899, Maria in 1905.

Charles attended City College of New York and the New School for Social Research until he found his career calling at the National Broadcasting Company in New York City. He started in the mailroom in 1941 and concluded as Traffic Manager of the NBC Television Network. In this position he coordinated communication lines for major news events the world over, including US political conventions, presidential inaugurations, Cold War events, moon landings, etc. During World War II, as traffic manager of the NBC International Division, and in conjunction with the Voice of America, he oversaw transmission of news and programming to the troops abroad. After retirement from his NBC career of 41 years in 1982, he spent 15 years with the Miss Teen, Miss USA and Miss Universe Pageants as the satellite coordinator for 45 events all over the world. He loved this challenge well into his 70's, and his fluency in Spanish came in handy.

He would often recount the advice of his father, Angelo, a laborer for the Mt. Vernon, NY, Water Dept., to "study hard" and use his education to succeed. Charles then passed on his love of learning to his children and grandchildren. He was so proud of his Italian-American heritage, particularly the food, the music and the art. It was for this reason his family nickname was "Roots". His other appetite was for reading, and he consumed the New York Times daily throughout his adult life. He savored the challenges of the crossword puzzles, too, often competing with his son to solve the last clue. He would joke that he would get the full benefit of paying local taxes from his use of the library alone. An avid golfer, he was pulling his own cart for 18 holes up until age 86. With his quick smile and engaging personality, Charlie enjoyed lively conversations on any topic. His cup was always "half full". And he always looked and acted younger than his years.

Charles is survived by the love of his life for 63 years, Katherine Mangano, RN BS. A more devoted, faithful and caring spouse cannot be found. They reared two children: his son Dr. Charles A. Mangano, Jr., who has practiced cardiology in Raleigh NC since 1979, with his wife Elizabeth and children Peter and Katie; and his daughter Marilyn Mangano, retired from teaching art for 32 years, and in recent years helping to care for her father in the home. Charles' lone surviving sibling is Dr. Joseph Mangano, a physician in Raleigh, NC, for over 35 years.

A memorial service was held at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, NY. The family is especially grateful for the years of thoughtful care provided by Dr. Lawrence Annes of Bronxville, NY, and by the staff of Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, NY, for their incredible touch during his final days. The grace and courage he displayed during his terminal illness was humbling to witness. We thank God for his full, rich life of nearly 93 years, lived with zest and passion.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Nancy Fields

Nancy Fields, a beloved member of the TODAY family, passed away January 16th. She worked with NBC for 55 years. "Tom Brokaw said it best. He said NBC could survive without him or the rest of the news division, but not Nancy Fields," said Willard Scott, who worked with Nancy for much of her tenure here. Nancy began as an intern in 1951 and retired in 2006. Or as Willard puts it: "She started with 'Howdy Doody' and ended up with me." She will be remembered fondly by the entire staff of TODAY and all who knew her at NBC. "She was just wonderful," Matt said. "She always had a smile on her face. She had such wonderful things to say for everyone."



Ariane Mautner

Ariane Mautner passed away, on October 5, 2010. She was a corner stone of Employee Relations at NBC. Her career spanned 40 years. Beloved daughter of the late Alfred and Fanny Mautner. Dear friend of Betty Dy. Service Thursday, October 7, 2010, at Frank E. Campbell, New York City. No further details were available.



Lloyd Gross

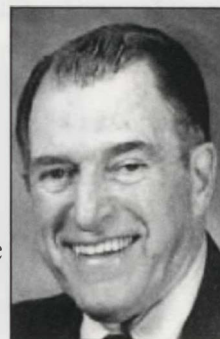
Lloyd Gross, 92, husband of Virginia Walker Gross, died on October 16th, 2010 at the Hospice of the Upstate, Anderson, SC after a short illness. He was born in Weehawken, NJ. From the age of five, he lived in Pittsfield, MA where he excelled as an athlete in football and track. He graduated from The Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA, and attended Tufts University. During World War II he served as a captain in the infantry, and was awarded the Silver Star during the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, he joined the staff of the fledgling CBS Television Network in New York where he eventually became a producer-director, working with such luminaries as Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite. He and Yul Brynner shared an office at CBS during Yul's short time as a television director. Lloyd went on to direct many shows during the Golden Age of TV including "The Perry Como Show" (for which he was awarded the Michael Award, later known as the Emmy®), "The Mel Torme Show" (Mel was the Best Man at his wedding), "Tonight on Broadway", "I Remember Mama", "The Miss America Pageant", "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade", and "Who Do You Trust?" with Johnny Carson.

He later directed hundreds of New York-based game shows for Goodson-Todman including the syndicated version of "What's My Line?", "I've Got a Secret", "Beat the Clock", "Choose Up Sides", "Play Your Hunch," "To Tell the Truth," and "Two for the Money". Among the other game shows he directed were the original version of "The Wheel of Fortune (1952)", "Make a Face", "Masquerade Party", "Window Shopping", "Music Bingo" and "Supermarket Sweep". [Ed. Note: Many PN'ers worked with Lloyd when the syndicated versions of "Truth" and "Line" were produced at NBC.]

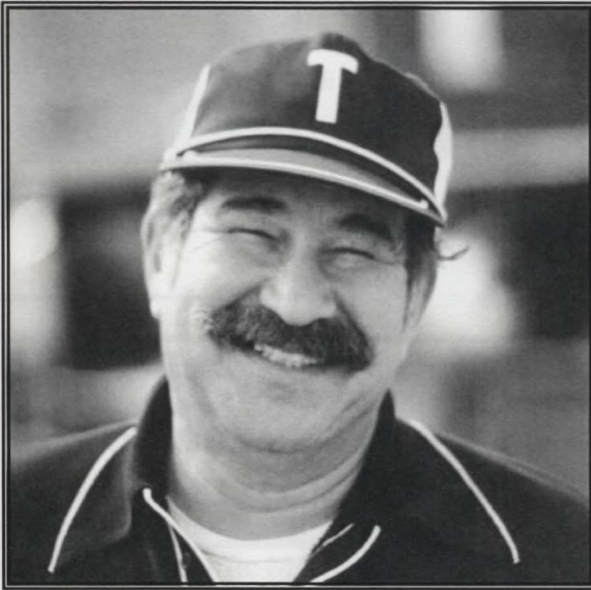
After his retirement, he wrote a weekly newspaper column entitled "From The Director's Chair" for a major Connecticut newspaper. He continued this column when the Grosses moved to Florida in 1998. In addition to his wife, Ginny, he is survived by his two sons, their wives, and three grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to The Hospice of the Upstate, 1835 Rogers Road, Anderson, South Carolina, 29621.



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Aaron Traiger Remembered by his son Warren



Aaron Traiger, whose work as an NBC audio engineer spanned four decades during the heyday of network broadcast television, died on December 12, 2010 in New York City. He was 85 and remained proud of his connection to NBC until his passing.

Aaron was part of NBC's remote coverage of iconic national moments like the President Kennedy's assassination, NASA's Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space shots, and the Watergate hearings. He developed an expertise in RF microphones and was the audio engineer in charge of the wireless technology used by NBC floor correspondents at numerous national political conventions and by roving sports reporters at baseball games and golf tournaments.

Aaron joined NBC in 1952 and worked in Kinescope Recording at 30 Rock. He was part of the crew for game shows like Jan Murray's "Treasure Hunt" and Merv Griffin's "Play Your Hunch." In a letter

to Aaron on his 70th birthday, Jan Murray reflected on their early work together: "Television was in its infancy and those days were filled with interest and excitement as we struggled to figure out how to make this new form of entertainment enjoyable."

He began traveling for the network in the mid-1960s and was a regular crew member on NBC's Baseball Game of the Week, its AFL and later NFL coverage, and its broadcasts of college football and basketball. Aaron was part of NBC's World Series, Super Bowl and Final Four tournament coverage for 20 years. Tony Kubek, the Yankee shortstop turned NBC color man, who was outfitted by Aaron with RF gear on numerous occasions, paid tribute to Aaron on his 70th birthday for the "quality of the work the true 'pros' like you accomplished every time out. You are a Hall of Famer in my book."

During his career, Aaron did stints on network institutions including "Today", "Tonight", "NBC Nightly News", "Howdy Doody" and "Saturday Night Live." His last show in 1985 was "Late Night with David Letterman."

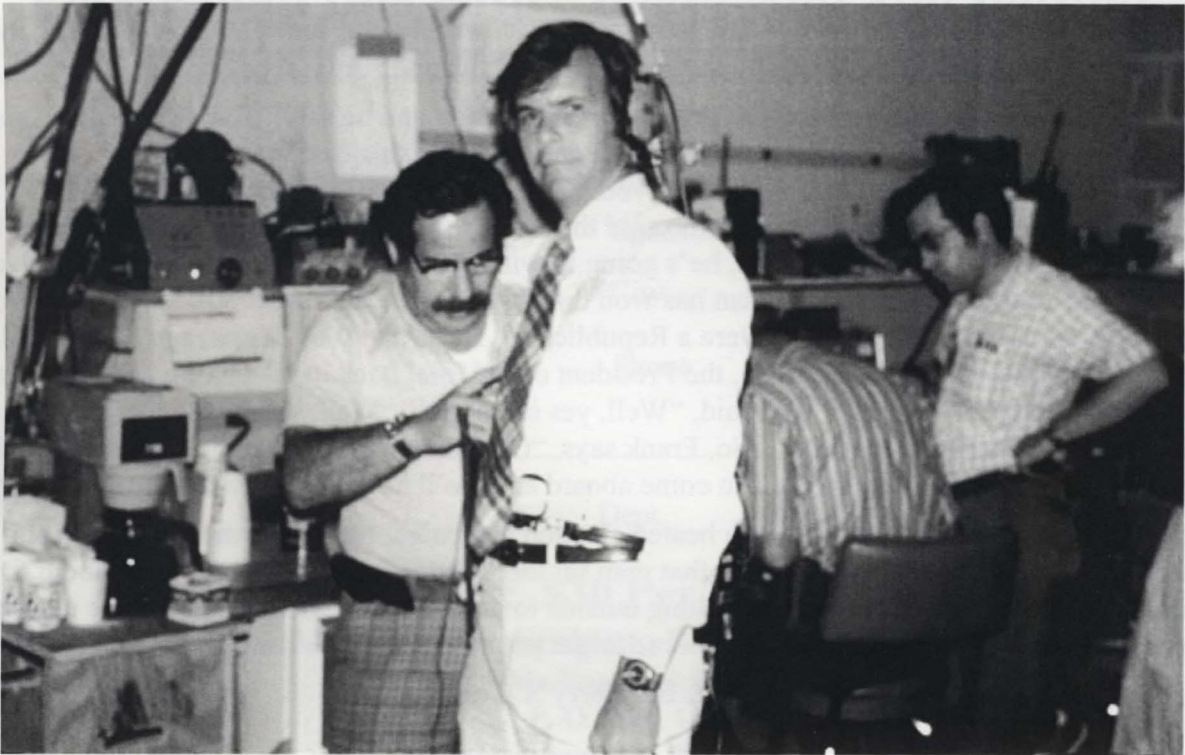
A side benefit of Aaron's golf tournament travel had been the chance to scout potential retirement destinations. He and his wife Joyce chose Green Valley, Arizona, near the site of the Joe Garagiola Tucson Open. Though not a golfer himself, Aaron had a very active retirement. He designed and made jewelry in a lapidary studio, was an avid ham radio operator, and became active in the Shriners, volunteering to escort children on their way to their Hospital for Children.

Aaron served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, participating in both the D-Day Invasion and the occupation of Japan. He was Secretary-Treasurer of NABET Local 11 and President of the Bergenfield, NJ Democratic Club in the early 1960s. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joyce; a son, Warren, of New York City; daughters Cheryl and Francine of Athens, Greece and Haverhill, Massachusetts, respectively; and two grandchildren, Lawrence and Elyse.

Tributes to Silent Microphones



Editor's best guess: Vinnie Kane and Bob Bugg look on as Aaron is on the air



Aaron mikes up Tom Brokaw in the Ready Room at a 1972 Political Convention

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Frank Bourgholtzer



Frank Bourgholtzer was the first full time White House correspondent for NBC News, where he worked for 40 years. He died October 8th in Santa Monica. Bourgholtzer, who was born in New York City on Oct. 26, 1919, joined NBC in 1946 and covered President Truman from 1947 to 1953. After the White House and stints at NBC's bureaus in Cold War Europe, Bourgholtzer joined the NBC bureau in Los Angeles in 1969 and remained there until his retirement in 1986.

Among his career highlights were the documentaries JOURNEY TO UNDERSTANDING: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER RETURNS FROM THE SUMMIT MEETING in 1960 and THE KREMLIN in 1963.

Of the latter, produced by George by George Vicas and Lucy Jarvis, TIME magazine wrote:

“Seldom has a TV show been so discussed and applauded as NBC's tour of the Kremlin...In an hour-long panoply of color, the forbidding mystery of the place was vaporized. The program started with NBC's Correspondent Frank Bourgholtzer following a Russian general up the Grand Kremlin Palace's Staircase of Honor, and the staircase alone—16 ft. wide, with gold-and-red carpeting, 58 steps and four landings—was a surprise of splendor. But with jewels and thrones, high vaulting domes and sprays of filigreed gold, such a glut of richness followed that when Bourgholtzer and the general returned at the end of the hour to the Staircase of Honor, it seemed little more than a nicely gilded stepladder.” (TIME Magazine May 31, 1963)

In a 1964 Truman Library interview with Randall Jesse, former News Director for WDAF in Kansas City, and Truman family friend, we learn of the very human sides of both Frank and Harry Truman:

Frank Bourgholtzer on election eve, 1948, came [into] the radio station and he said, “Randall, borrow, beg, or steal all the money you can get and bet it on Harry Truman. He's going to win this election tomorrow.”

I said, “Well, I think you're crazy, Frank. I'm going to vote for him, but I don't think he'll win.”

In fact, recalling now, there were a lot of people who said this same thing, “I'm going to vote for him, but I don't think he'll win.” But anyway, Frank says, “Yes, he's going to win. He's won it in the last two weeks. I've been with Tom Dewey and Truman, both, and Truman has won this thing in the last two weeks. I'm even going to vote for him.” I said, “Well, Frank, I thought you were a Republican.” He says, “Well, I was, and maybe still am, [but] when we were... going through my home State, the President called [me] back to his private car and he says, “Frank, doesn't your mother live [here?]" He said, “Well, yes she does.” “Well, would she like to come aboard [the train] and meet me? I'd like to meet her.” So, Frank says, “Of course, yes she would.” He said, “Well, wire up ahead and send word to her some way so she can come aboard and we'll have a little visit at our next stop.”

Now remember, this was right in the middle of a heated election campaign, one of the most dramatic and critical campaigns in history. Frank said, “Do you know that man sat there and talked to my mother for about fifteen minutes, while there were thousands of people waiting outside to greet him, he was sitting in there talking to my mother.” Then, afterwards, Truman says, “Frank, never forget your mother. She's the best friend you'll ever have.”

And he says, “Do you think I could vote for anyone but Harry S. Truman?”

—Compiled and edited by Joel Spector

**Peacock North
 Spring Brunch Reservation Form
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Claudette Blackwood was a Production Manager for NBC News from 1979 to 1988.

She was then Manager, Finance, for NBC from 1988 to 1990.

From 1994 to 2000 she was a freelance Location Manager for NBC in Paris.

Following a stint with "Project Renewal" she is now the Director of Public Relations for the French luxury goods company Bernardaud at their U. S. Headquarters in New York.

Marta Hogan was an Audio Engineer in New York Studio/Field 1983 from 2009.

"Donahue" was one of her many shows as Senior Audio.

Robert B. Ruthman was with NBC News/Radio from 1954-1970. He now resides in Albany, NY