

Peacock North

Summer, 1998



Volume 7 Edition 2

Peacock Struts For Record Crowd

By Dan Grabel

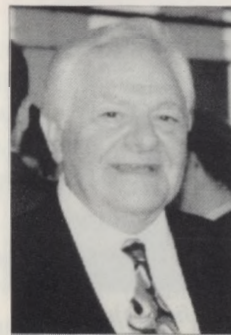
Members of Peacock North and their companions swelled the hall at LaMagnette Restaurant on Sunday, May 17th to renew acquaintanceships, enjoy a good lunch, and be enthralled by “inside” stories from speaker after speaker.

And the icing on the Italian pastry was the size of the crowd — a record of over 200. But don't let that stop you from attending the 1999 lunch. There's room for a few more diners at the spacious 50th street ristorante.

We're lucky so many of our members continue to



deliver great tales of encounters with kings and kingmakers. Stories that certainly are being retold in Scottsdale, Arizona, Manchester, Vermont, LA, and Greenbackville, Virginia. Those are the towns some of the



Peter P, our genial host and leader.

day's guests came from to share the rich camaraderie.

When first-timers in the crowd were asked to stand up, 22 guests arose. The organization has nearly 800 members, less those who have passed on as Silent Microphones.

PN's CEO, Peter Peterson, welcomed all, recalled how the organization came into being in August 1987, offered a hand to the NBC Florida Retirees group if they need space in our newsletter, offered a tribute to the late Frank Sinatra, thanked his news letter staffers — Heino Ripp, Dan Grabel, Roy Silver, Frank Vierling, plus contributors Dick Dudley, Don Luftig, Ken Arber, and others.

Looking out among the sea of faces, Peterson noted the presence of WNBC's Gloria Clyne, and a flock of directors, including Marty Hoade (“Frontiers of Faith”), Bob Rippen (who directed tv's first children's programming), occasional theater and movie actor, Marvin Einhorn (“Nightly News,” Jessica Savage), Davy Wilson (“Saturday Night Live”), Don Luftig, Jay Miller, Marilyn Jacobs Furey, Enid Roth, Lillian Russo and Ginny Seipt.

Other PN luminaries present included Washington



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producer Bob Asman, News vice president Don Meaney, announcers (alphabetically, of course, since we're aware of egos, hi! hi!) Mel Brandt, Dick Dudley, Harry Fleetwood, Vic Roby and a special tip of the hat to, perhaps the dean emeritus of announcing, Ed Herlihy.

Also acknowledged in the audience were the "techies" who had worked unseen, unheralded, behind the cameras, behind the scripts, and behind the paperwork that gets a show on the air. And their wives, too. Also Gloria Reina, spouse of unit manager Jim, who was once an NBC color girl. For those who have forgotten and those who otherwise do not know, in the early color days all the cameras working a show focused in on a so-called color girl so they would all have the same flesh tones and hair coloration, as well as every other color facet on camera, during the "live" show.

On the podium Jim Reina recalled some of his nightmares and unusual experiences. On Steve Allen's "Tonight Show" at the Hudson Theatre: When Allen, went out on 45th street to make an omelet in the world's largest frying pan, Reina got a police summons for blocking traffic and a health code violation! Dance teacher Arthur Murray had an NBC show along with his wife. Reina recalled Murray was tight-fisted. When he wanted a cab, he'd move away from a hotel or restaurant doorman and blow his own whistle to hail a cab.

And the Moscow mail: traveling with the touring Benny Goodman band, Jim departed the Russian capital early and musicians asked him to carry home their pay checks and mail the envelopes from New York. At the airport the Russians were suspicious of all the letters and told Reina to drop them into a Moscow airport mailbox! Strangely, even tho' they had U.S. stamps on the envelopes, the paychecks did arrive at their U.S. destinations.

New retiree Marilyn Jacobs Furey said she's so busy in retirement she hasn't had a chance to do many of the things she promised herself she would do when she has free time. (See separate Furey story in this issue.)

Newsman Ed Gough recalled a lifetime of experiences that even fascinated this writer who has

known him about 40 years. Gough's writing and broadcast career started on Cape Cod in the late 40s, moved along to Providence, RI Journal, where he once interviewed a young college student, Gabe Pressman, who had come home from Europe with the first interview with Poland's Cardinal

Mindzenty. Ed recalled his talent fee (aside from salary) was a big \$2.50 per week.

He came to N.Y as an NBC newswriter, doing scripts for broadcaster Clyde Kittell and later became a reporter for NBC in New York and Washington. The news staff in that day was 12 people, with the stern Joe Meyers in command. The heavyweights in the newsroom were Bob Trout, W.W. Chaplin and H.V. Kaltenborn.

Ed was with an NBC film crew in Hyannisport when JFK was assassinated. He recalled LBJ was so informal he talked to newsmen in his White House bedroom while he changed his shorts! When vice president Nelson Rockefeller was on the national campaign bandwagon in 1968, Ed joined the campaign as his radio-tv adviser. After stopovers at ABC, WNEW and WPIX, he returned to NBC.

He was on the "Today" news staff four different times. He recalled being on a trip with Jane Pauley when the producers thought it would be cute if she did a station break holding a tiny pig. On camera, piggy got nervous and incontinent. Jane —wet now— squealed. Cut to black.

Peg McKinley of NBC's Human Resources department, delivered regards from CEO Bob Wright and her boss, Ed Scanlon, and brought the PN crowd up to date on what's new at 30 Rock. With GE now owning a good piece of the building, it is upgrading the shopping area to an up-scale mall. Almost all the present shops have been vacated. With 3-million visitors a year going through the street level and floor below, there is a huge tourist market.

Studio 8H is being renovated again, the commissary decor has had yet another re-do — now, a New England motif — and there is a new chef. Additionally, there will be a new NBC store in the "Today" show studio building. All will be ready this fall.

NBC has bought 2 stations in important markets: KXAS in Dallas, and WVIT in Hartford. Both had been NBC affils. McKinley said the network is making a plea for more volunteerism in America and is trying to show the way with its own efforts that include an assist to the High School of Arts & Science in Harlem and to an elementary school on the West side where it is helping 3rd grade



Ed Gough.



Jim Reina.



Marilyn.



Peg McKinley.

students improve reading skills.

GE's top man, Jack Welch, has certainly made his mark in the business world with economic success for the company and himself but now he is dedicating his efforts to a so-called Six-Sigma project. Its aim: personal excellence along with quality production. Every employee is expected to be involved, to set goals, and to achieve that excellence Welch is urging. The company is also actively involved in pre-retirement seminars, is looking forward to its Olympic games opportunities from the year 2000 to 2008, and to the November 7th 25 Year Club inductions when the honorees will include announcer Howard Reig, who has been with NBC for 55 years!

One PN member noted that we all like to pay an occasional visit to 30 Rock but it is too difficult to get past security. She asked for the creation of a retiree I.D. card. Peg McKinley said she would pursue the idea with management. When Pete spoke about the death of Frank Sinatra, he pointed out that several people in the audience who were once bobby soxers — including his wife Peg and Francesca Peters — had waited on long lines at the Paramount Theatre in Times Square to get a chance to see their "heart throb."

During his long career, Sinatra, the pre-eminent entertainer of the century, appeared many times on the network although he did not host a major, weekly show.

Announcer Harry Fleetwood reported on his generous gift to the City's Department of Parks for the perpetual care and beautification of the tiny Verdi Square Park on Broadway. The centerpiece, of course, is a statue of Verdi, the composer.

Walter Miller, who will be executive producer of the Tony awards show in June (his son Paul will direct), provided a number of revealing incidents involving himself as director and Frank Sinatra as talent. "Blue Eyes" was a strong-willed and often moody performer. At the opening of a posh hotel in the Dominican Republic in 1980, Sinatra got one million dollars for his one-shot performance. The hotel owner's wife had a favorite song and Miller told him he had to sing it. Sinatra said he hated the song, didn't want to

do it, but finally he acquiesced.

He did the number, turned his back as the audience applauded, and shouted to the band, "I hate that song!" The crowd didn't hear it, but the camera, on stage, did.

Ed Herlihy, who said he is nearing his 90th birthday, closed out the speakers' program after getting a standing ovation from his PN colleagues. Ed spent 40 years as the voice of Universal newsreel in America's movie houses, endless years on radio and tv broadcasts with the Horn & Hardart Children's Hour, as well as tv's Kraft Theatre.

Working for the NBC "Weekend" show, he recalled, correspondent Merrill Mueller doing a report on Ernest Hemmingway being missing and presumed dead in Africa. A few days later, Herlihy was on vacation and sitting at Harry's Bar in Venice, Italy, when he walks Hemmingway. The novelist angrily told Ed, "I am not dead!"

For his close, Herlihy asked the crowd to join him in singing the Meredith Wilson song, written for the "Tallulah" (Bankhead) show — "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." It wasn't quite Mitch Miller and the chorus, but Ed lead the singing and some of the PNers joined him a cappella.

Later, Enid Roth told us, she had interviewed Herlihy when she was a college student. Years later, when she was in the tv business, she met Herlihy and the first thing he said was that she had once interviewed him!

Traveling to LaMayette was a tougher, longer chore this day because Israeli Prime Minister "Bibi" Netanyahu was breakfasting with Mayor Giuliani at Gracie Mansion on the east side, and then attending the 50th anniversary Israel parade on Fifth Avenue. Trip times were almost doubled.

Long distance travel honors: Ed (Unit Mgr.) and Linda Rossi from Scottsdale, AZ, Walter Balderson, (Engr) Clearwater, FL, Rick Berman, (Engr) Charlottesville, VA, Jim Schaeffer, (Producer) Burlington, VT, Ed Voss (Engr) Greenbackville (honest!), VA, Richard French, Manchester, VT, Peter Flynn (Affils Mgr) Durham, NH, Gene Frisch (Engr) Ruckersville, VA, Bob Hanna (TD) Santa Cruz, CA, Walter Miller (Exec Prod) LA. □



Ed Herlihy



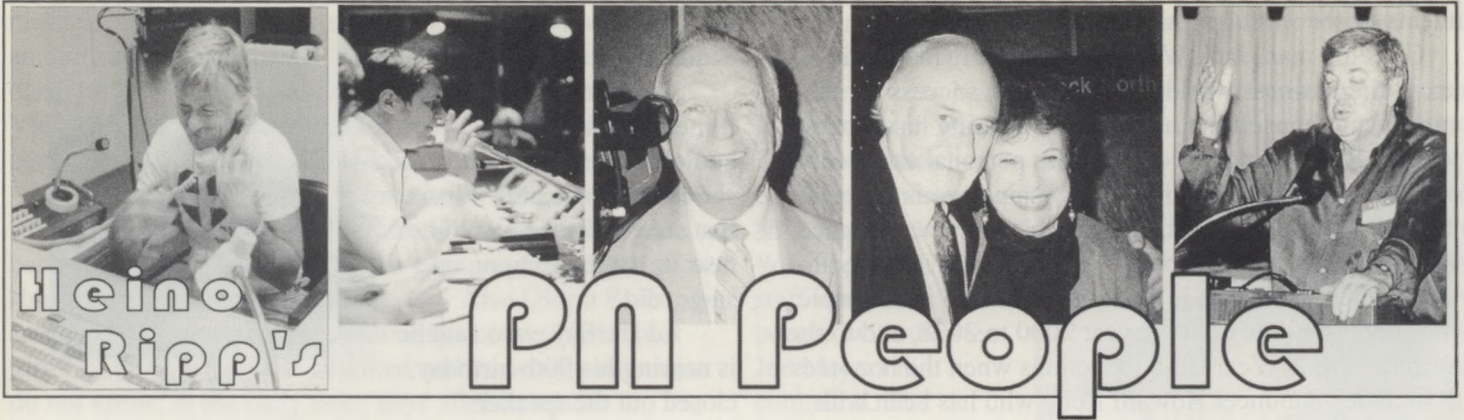
Fleetwood.



Walt Miller.



Enid.



It's a Small World!



PETER FATOVICH, HUGO RIPP, AAVO KOIV

Aavo and I schmoozed a bit and he mentioned that he was going to Jupiter, Fla. where he was to meet Peter. My brother Hugo has a condo there. Aavo & Hugo had met at the Estonia House here on 42nd St. I gave Aavo Hugo's tel. No. and they all got together with Mary Lou, Astra and Kathryn at Kee Grill Restaurant. Strange how they, all from different areas, happened into one spot on the earth. Yes, Sid and Imogene were right. It's a small world.

Aavo couldn't attend the La Mag Bash, for he's off for 3 weeks to Estonia again as well as Rome, (Italy). Since he can't be in NY, he promised to console himself with some fine Italian cuisine and wine in Rome, and to drink a toast to all of you at La Mag about 7pm his time. (Brother Hugo was a brain at CBS

engineering. One project was with Memorex inventing videotape time code.) ❖❖❖❖

Many of you remember Producer/director Fred Coe, remembered for his innovative work on the Philco Playhouse, emanating from 8G in the fifties. Eons ago writer Jon Krampner talked to me about those glorious days of yore. Well, Jon has completed a biography - "The Man In The Shadows: Fred Coe and the Golden Age of Television." (Rutgers University Press, 1997.)

Last May 14, at The Museum of TV and Radio, a tribute was held to Fred. Names you all have heard of, Delbert Mann, Nancy Marchand, JP Miller, Tad Mosel, Arthur Penn, Cliff Robertson and the author, Jon, took part. Clips from shows Fred had produced such as Marty, Peter Pan and Days Of Wine and Roses were shown, and in the discussion, audience questions were solicited.

From a NYTimes photo at bottom left is Director John Frankenheimer and on the right, Fred Coe watching a run thru on the set.



The last time I saw Fred, and his lady, was at his beach house during my stay at Myrtle Beach. His soft spoken, calm, friendly demeanor impressed me. He was an excellent host.

Obviously he enjoyed being at the seashore -and its serenity, a change from hectic 8G.

A great loss for us all, when he passed away so early in life.

From the same studio (8G) on Mondays, I TD'd a half-hour drama, Chevrolet on Broadway. Directors were GORDON DUFF, BARRY BERNARD and GARY SIMPSON. In the last issue I left you with a snippet of Gary's retirement activities.

The rest of the story: The Vergennes Opera House represented an era, which was the cultural center of the region. Vergennes, city of 1,200, on the Shores of Lake Champlain, 200 miles Northwest of Boston, where opera, plays and vaudeville shows were produced in the 19th century.

In 1979, Gary hoped to start an amateur theater company in the old opera house. But found the theater's rich velvet curtains and historic sets gone and the building in shambles.

Gary spent years circulating petitions, addressing civic groups, etc. seeking support for the theater's refurbishment. Support he got, from dozens of area residents who restored the house, in time to have a celebration of the 100th year of the Vergennes Opera House, on Memorial day.

Gary was the guest of honor, but insisted, "Don't make it look like it's been a one man show, for it's been a community effort." ❖ ❖

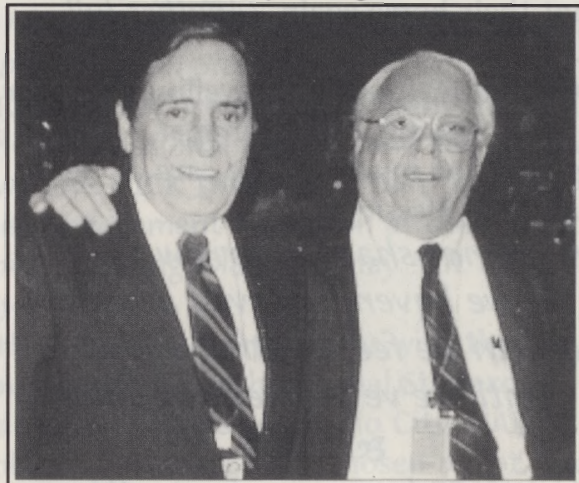
Talked to CHARLES CORCORAN, former VP NBC Engineering, now living in Southbury, Connecticut. Chuck and Pat are in good health and joined us all in Peacock North. Welcome Chas.

Peacock North is spreading west. Also joining us from Chicago are: JEANNE COUTURE LAURA SKIDMORE, DIANA BORRI and SHIRLEY IWATIN. Now ladies, get together and spend a few days in the Big Apple on our next Spring Bash and meet the rest of us.

CHARLES MANGANO & AL CAMOIN spent another week with lovely ladies, this time in Shreveport, Louisiana, with the Miss USA Pageant. Al has settled in with his center

camera and Charles coordinating all the satellite and communications stuff. Their next triumph was in, yep, Honolulu, Hawaii. This time the Miss Universe Pageant, May 12.

Charley writes: "We all lost a legend and fine gentleman in the passing of Phil Falcone. It



Charles Mangano and Al Camoin (*Al's smoking has given him some breathing problems. He's stopped smoking now and is working on his health. But you can't tear him away from his camera!*)

was my pleasure to have known him throughout my 41 years at NBC."

JESSIE CRIPE writes from Dunnellen, Fl. "This is a bargain! (*The Newsletter.*) A year's worth of reminders of the wonderful people and days in our lives - for only \$20.00!"

PERRY MASSEY writes from Calabasas, Calif. "Pam and I are fine. We have come through El Nino unscathed. Did have a jolt in December. We were rear-ended by a drunk driver who was running from the highway patrol. We were in our brand new car, doing about 65 in the center lane on the Ventura Freeway! They arrested the guy & he had insurance. 9 weeks later and ten thousand \$ of repairs, we got our car back. It's like new.

Perry says that in just under 50 years, he's come full circle. (No he's not putting on weight.) His 1st job at NBC was as a page taking people on tours of the NBC studios. Now as a volunteer docent, he takes folks on tours of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley!

Alaska is becoming a magnet these days. The Masseys are going on a land tour/cruise the end of May. Late September they may be back east.

DICK FRENCH returned from the NBCFR and now announced that they call Manchester, Vermont their home again. (*Another full circle.*)

JACK KEEGAN says no travelling this year. Hopes to be moving in the summer — house is getting a bit too much to take care of. Sends along an Irish Blessing:

*We cannot share a sorrow
If we haven't grieved a while.
Nor can we feel another's Joy,
Until we've learned to smile!*



BILL WOLFE (announcer for Another World) remarks that the Peacock North publication is "Simply priceless" — so many things I never knew about! Bill is still doing "his share" of freelance narrations. Recently signed a contract to narrate 57 half-hour videos for the NY State Transportation Authority. Should keep him out of mischief for most of the year! Also he celebrated his 7th year in remission from acute Leukemia — so sez he, as far as I'm concerned, it is indeed a WONDERFUL WORLD!

From the attaché case of VIC ROBY! Vic writes with his dues and luncheon tab that the Spring Edition of "Peacock North" keeps him very busy — enjoying every article and every picture — especially those of his fellow fifties announcers on pages 40 and 41... But, Vic says, an item on page 4 convinces him that he'd better be careful about every word he writes lest he get RIPPED apart in PN!

(I didn't tell Vic that I had decided not to fool around with his tomes of sometimes iambic pentameters and besides he paid me a nice compliment,

BKEBNS

And that coming from Vic, a man of few superlatives, caused me to shred my original page once I figured it out. H.)

JOHN LIBRETTO, director Cum Laude, from Glen Rock, New Jersey, finds commuting a bit easier, since the roads are not so crowded after midnight. John has taken an offer from ABC to direct Good Morning America. We all wish you the best, you deserve it. *Hi Christina.*

ANN KRAMER hoped to make it to La Mag in person and not just in spirit. We missed you Ann! She still wishes the best to all you "pioneers."

ROGER TUTTLE still flying his plane, but you can't keep a sailor out of a boat. So Rog made it easy, he bought a boat — there's a lot of water around Wilmington N.C. *Hi Pat!*

BOB JONES from WQEW writes to Pete:

Dare I ask about Jerry Damon? He was very nice to me (almost 40 years ago, when I was just starting out). I'm so glad you listen each morning and that you heard my tribute to America in the 40's. Enjoyed your magazine — lots of love in more pages.



A medical note: Last spring, RAY WEISS (Engineering) was diagnosed by his cardiologist as having 3 blocked arteries, 75 to 95% blocked. Rather than "unwise" by-pass surgery or Angioplasty, the Doc suggested a holistic approach consisting of weight loss, herbals, exercise and meditation. Also included daily Gugu plus (?) and Garlinaise 400, (to reduce cholesterol), Ginko Biloba to increase blood flow, baby aspirin (For thinning blood), Vitamins E and C (as Anti-oxidants) and CO-Enzyme Q10.

After 5 months of abstinence from playing tennis, his Doc finding him so improved that he allowed Ray to start playing again. The CBN network heard about our tennis buff and taped an interview at the courts. Too late to catch it, but his debut was scheduled on LifeTime cable at 11pm Tuesday, June 5th.

(An acquaintance of mine had similar artery

clogging, and his cardiac surgeon also decided on no surgery. His program was to drip E.D.T.A into the veins. At first several times daily and as time passed it was reduced to once a month and so on. Since it cleared the arteries, it also washed away needed minerals. These were replaced by taking supplements, which included Magnesium, Potassium, Calcium etc. In several months time his gray look had turned to rosy pink, his totally clogged leg arteries opened up; he had no difficulty getting around etc. A huge difference in cost as compared to by-pass surgery! H.)

NORM BLUMENTHAL notes: "You guys keep outdoing yourself. Each issue gets better (if that's possible — and somehow you people do it)."

REINALD WERRENATH writes, "Thanks for a fine job on the Spring issue, and the full treatment you gave my recollections of an exciting time in TV history. You deserve medals for developing an organization like Peacock North." (*The "staff" humbly takes a bow. H.*)

DIANE & BOB JUNCOSA might have a Tucson, AZ address after Jan 1st... They took their annual trip to Yuma, AZ, Las Vegas, Palm Springs and LA before ending up in Mazatlan, Mexico for a week of square dancing. (*I can hear the do-si-do calls with a mariachi band! H.*) However, after the great trip, Bob came down with a stubborn flu/bronchitis bug, which took 6 weeks to clear. They dropped in on Scotty McCartney (Palm Springs) and computer schmoozed, since Scott has also surrendered to the computer keyboard. Hello to the troops, and hope that some day they can have another "eyeball."

Howie Atlas is happy to report that Ruth is back home from the hospital. Docs say everything went well and should be OK after 4-6 weeks of recuperation. She thanks all that wrote or called about her and wishing her well.

FRANK VIERLING is shaking down a new computer and "Microsoft Publisher 97." He and son Donald have been burning the past midnight oil getting the computer up and running. (*A computer store owner and I discussed getting a "Lemon Law" applied to*

computer software, for very few programs get up and running without many phone calls to manufacturers, 'cause the darn things never work. My wife Chris just bought a new Real Estate pgm. Out of the box, a sheet said, "Do this 1st." This program will not work unless you have version 4.0. Guess what version was in the box? Version 3.0!! It didn't work!

Reading PN brought back many memories of the International Theater and the Show of Shows says DICK DANIELS. TONY ROMEO had a knee replacement operation at the Northport hospital on Long Island on May 5th. (*The Best Tony.*)

HOWIE ATLAS supplied us with the following info from the annual Steward installation at Blake's in Radio City. NABET Scholarship Winners were chosen by lot. Each to receive \$500 annually for four years. Local 11 is reorganizing its scholarship program. Prior to this year they had 17 unnamed scholarships in operation. This year 7 new ones were added. They are named in honor of prominent past and present members: Mort Aronoff, Larry Dworkin, Tom Brown, Arthur Kent, Robert Weintraub, Memorial Scholarship Fund(s).

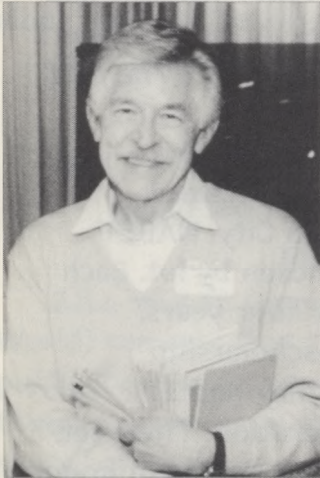
Howard Atlas Scholarship Fund,
The John Clark Scholarship Fund

An eighth fund is The Philip F. Falcone Scholarship Fund, (*funded by the Falcone family.*)

JERRY CUDLIPP is home after quadruple bypass surgery, then an operation on an aneurysm, and another to repair a leakage from the first operation. While playing tennis, he was stricken with a heart attack. Things have quieted down and Jerry is at home starting exercising a bit to help the body get back to normal. Call him — 201-768-6581.

I spoke to BEA REED in Exeter, NH recently (*Cameraman Red Reed's widow*). Filling time taking college courses. Still interested in NBC happenings. Give her a call — 603-772-5804.

*Turn here for the flavor of the
May Luncheon.*



Sign-in time at La Maganette. That's Tony Nelle on the left, Bob Rippen, Lee Pliskin, ?, and Francesca Peters helping Ray DiPrima with his name tag, and Peg Peterson's back.

Three lovely ladies greeted the guests — Peg and Pete Peterson's daughter, Carol, Peg Peterson and Francesca Peters.

Ripp, yellow pads and pencils at the ready.

Info gathered at La Mag from the "yellow" sheets.

PETER FLYNN, (Affiliate Relations) and wife LAURA (SPEERS) retired Jan 1, 1998 to Durham, New Hampshire. *(Enjoy the SPACE, clear skies, maple syrup fresh from the tree [almost], 6 months of snow, the smell of the fir trees - and as I remember going out in the evening into the clean air, taking a deep breath of the smell of skunk! It's always sumptin'. Except for those tiny irritants, I hope you will love it as much as I did as a kid. H.)*

CATHY LEHRFELD is currently working at PBS Public Relations with other ex-NBC folks.

JOAN VOUKIOES recently left CBS Cable, Now doing her own Marketing Business.

DONALD and MILDRED GOGARTY (who are the ones that actually put our Newsletter into print) have waited long enough at NBC, 52½ years, to finally enjoy retirement. They're looking forward to their upcoming Italy

vacation with Central Holidays.

ARIANE MAUTNER wonders: How did I find time to work? I can't manage to get things done now! And I used to be so well organized.

WALTER MILLER back in town from Hollywood, to Produce the Tony Awards which aired June 7 and then before he even had his nap, starts in to do "Comic Relief," airing on the 14th. He really enjoys seeing his old buddies, wondered where Irv Sobel was. Walt made it a family show. Son Paul is directing the show and daughter Debbie is ADing. ...Walt talked about the Grammys. After setting up two crane cameras, hand-helds, steady-cams, you name it, Bob Dillen pulled Walt aside, to "explain" his way to shoot his segment and of course Walter listened attentively, Yuk Yuk. Dillen wanted to be center stage, surrounded by three pedestal cameras, don't worry about the audience, there's lot more out there — and I want it shot "just like in the 60's." Walter replied quickly in the Miller style, "You came to the right guy!"

Also in his inimitable style, Walter brought



Ruth Rippen, Anne Einhorn, Bob Rippen and Marvin Einhorn.

laughter to the 200ish ex-NBC'ers, with his real-life TV encounters. He has my vote for an annual spot at the dais.

Another welcome visitor was ROBERT HANNA in from California. "Fabulous seeing all the wonderful Guys and Dolls. The "committee" (Peter) has done a great job with the reunion luncheon. Also greetings from the West Coast - hope we have a "Peacock West" before too long."

RICK BERMAN, like most of us, missed seeing all of you. So he flew up Sunday morning just for the reunion. He has a lovely huge home, with a swimming pool, and 25 acres located in Charlottesville, Virginia. He's on Ham Radio, as well as the Internet. Keeps busy on a regular basis doing multifaceted jobs on a public access TV Show. He looks great, plays tennis, and is wearing out his knees. Get out your Glucosamine Sulfate vitamins!

Many of you have heard of Chateau Neuf de Pape. Well MILT WYATT has and just tripped all the way to La Belle France, for some fresh old red French wine with that name. While he was sipping, he went back to Cannes last October, and treated his son Scott, now a young man, to the trip. Since you may remember from other mentions in this column, Milt has friends everywhere. This time the "friend has a 4 place airplane." So they flew all over the Cote d'Azur, in this guy's plane, then stayed at the plane owner's villa and drank more Chateau Neuf.

Soon they had worn out their welcome, so onward southward to Genoa, Italy. Only problem was that Columbus had already left, and from Spain. Oh well, sometimes you just



Peter Title and Ariane Mautner.

can't count on friends! However, Milt still has friends in the US, his daughter who he visits often in New Hampshire.

AL GALLO, our scenic Artist from the Como Show, is pursuing painting AND exhibiting his fine art - and being kept busy and loving it with his two grandsons. Is looking forward to his wife's retirement so they can travel more.

PETE CALABRESE: "It is a wonderful experience to see again the people who were part of my youth and my life throughout an era that will never be again!"

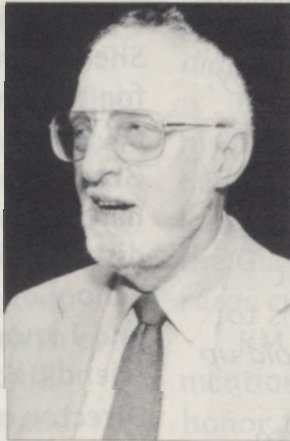
BOB VAN RY has just finished his 23rd year with Sat. Nite Live. (His 433rd show of the original 446!) Bob retired from NBC in May 1995. Says it's better to do it this way! He's become a commuter between his home in North Arlington, NJ and St. Augustine, Fla. As time goes by, more and more time is spent in Fla.

Speaking of St. Augustine, GENE MARTIN and JANICE now have a condo there. Their back yard lawn is a golf course. They also plan a summer trip to Europe.

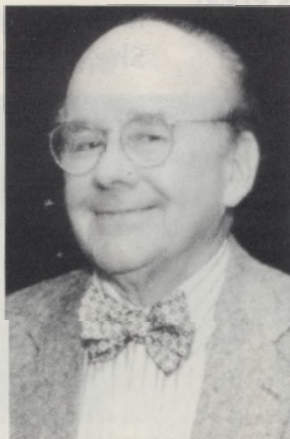
BOB NEWMAN managed to persuade a couple of old friends to attend, and all are very happy about it. Bob feels P.N. could use more "publicity" among the older vets as well as the younger troops. Folks don't know how much fun the banquet is and how terrific the newsletter is. Bob adds a P.S. "Love watching people going around the room throwing their arms around each other in genuine joy at seeing old friends!"

VIVIEN F. NEWMAN: It's great to be along for the ride!

JAY MILLER, ex Director at 30 Rock, now Professor at Iona College teaching TV Production.



Rick.



Bill deLannoy.



Hi! — Dick Doherty & Ed Voss. Greenbackville?

GENE WALDSTEIN + DEBORAH: "Dull year. We hung out in NYC and did 2 Operas, 2 Ballets, many films, theater, museums — all the things people come here to do. Next Oct. It's a cruise and tour of Greece and Turkey. This summer it's the house in East Hampton playing with our neighbors Doom and Nancy Salvia, Cynthia and Dave Handler, Lois Marino — Boy, life is really tough!"

DON and SANDY LUFTIG are putting Turkey in their repertoire this July for two weeks.

LILLY RUSSO can't hide her delight at seeing everyone. Says that everyone seems to be getting taller. *(Also I notice they all hold up their proud heads high! H.)*

We have here another NBCer moving to Heritage Village (217F), Southbury, CT 00488. It's GEORGE MOYENTCHEFF back from a trip to Italy and Greece. Promises details and photos of his adventure. *(A contest for you George. If you read all of PN People, what other PN-er moved to Heritage Village? H.)*

CAROL AERENSON notes that this is her 2nd Peacock Luncheon and once again it's great to see many old friends. Carol is still at NBC in



Dick Dudley, that's Audrey Marshall behind, Jack Marshall & Mel Brant.



Camera 2, reverse angle - Dick, Audrey & Jack.



Bill Rose, Tony Nelle, Jack Keegan, Marge McGlynn & Bob MacIntosh.



Aley French, Vivien Newman. Is he taking our picture?

the News Archive Dept. Jan 25, '98 was her 28th Anniversary there.

JOYCE WERNEY writes, "A great time to see wonderful friends. Thank You Peacock North!"

MURIEL KIRKPATRICK MacPHERSON: Hi Fellow Peacocks! sez she, such a pleasure to see my old, but still young conspirators on the TODAY SHOW. My God, it's still going like the Bunny Battery. Best part is hearing these ladies we knew telling about their kids and grandkids. We are expecting our 6th, Ian or Gabriella, as the case may be! Good to see MARIE FINNEGAN, LILLY RUSSO and HELEN PITRETTI who I've known for the same number of years as "TODAY".

Speaking of HELEN PITRETTI (O'NEILL), She says how nice to come back to Manhattan for the reunion from the wilds of New Canaan, CT where she still is selling luxury homes. Gerry Green is also a resident of the town, but they hardly see each other. He just received a distinguished award from Columbia University School of Journalism. Gerry stays home a lot and I know he would like to hear from his old friends. You may remember Gerry as News Director of the original TODAY SHOW and the author of HOLOCAST. Helen announces that If you ever get to New Canaan, look her up. She'd love to



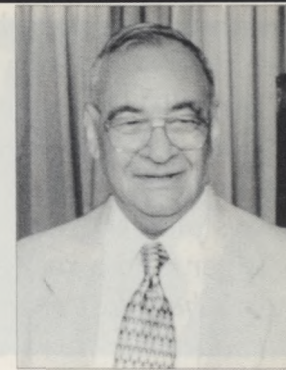
Marge McGlynn & ? Next year name tags on the backs.



Gloria Clyne, Barbara McGinnis.



Joan Gifford, Joe Gianguinto & Jim Reina



Tape giant, Bill Rose.

see old Peacocks. (Helen was PA on TODAY, six years from 1st year.)

STAS PYKA had as his guest, Walter Hyde, who joined NBC in 1940 (*not a misprint -H.*) as a Page. He served in the war and returned to NBC to become head of the Graphic Arts Dept. He left in the mid-60's to co-own an Inn on the Cape. Walter enjoyed people that he hadn't seen in 30 years.

HANK HEUSTIS feels it's quite exciting to see so many of my old colleagues and friends this year. His life in "retirement" had never been better, is looking forward to the birth of his 2nd grandchild in 3 weeks! Hank is still active in the addiction field, counseling and consulting with Employee Assistance Professionals — Alcoholism Counseling and enjoying a home out East on Long Island.

AGNES R. SULLIVAN writes, "It's been a real great party. Thanks to all your dedicated and hard work. Thanks!"

JOEL SPECTOR marked this week as his 33rd Anniversary at NBC. Congrats. Joel was just photographed with three folks he started NBC with, LOUISE MALCOLM, BOB DRIER and

GENE GARNES, Sr. They all looked and felt great. Joel's involved with the 2nd design of 8H Control room. (Last revision was in 1988.)

ANONYMOUS writes: "There is nothing going on in my life that's fit to print" (*No, I didn't make that up! H.*)

BILLY ROSE (Video Tape) was successful on his third try to attend La Mag. Each try before had to be cancelled due to various reasons. He looks great, rested and in good humor. One of the Giants of video tape before and after the razor cutting editing. (*Always a pleasure, Bill.*)

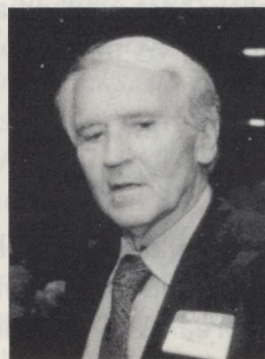
JIM SUNDER stopped by to chat. He mentioned that we should pay some sort of honor the guys who pushed the dollies and cranes so skillfully in the crowded studios. We talked about JOE CARPENTER from the real early 3H days on, NICK RAWLUK, who pushed the Sanner crane at the International Theater by himself, from which he got a hernia, JOHN SPAGNOLA who dollied the Chapman crane in Brooklyn and 8H on the biggies, and JIM CULLEY as well. Without their skill and fine touch, some of our great camera moves might



Gary Iorio.



Marty Hoade & Norman Davidson.



Bob Hanna.



The Weills, Anne & Frank.

have been disasters, but no, these guys danced with the dancers like Gene Kelly.

Another welcome visitor, just up from Florida, another video tape genius, WALTER BALDERSON. Walt is a real easygoing guy, always pleasant; one who never raises his voice in anger, and a real gentleman. *(I'm glad he wasn't here last year to hear Beryl Pfizer introduce her new word to our group.)* Beryl looked great, we schmoozed a bit, and then she disappeared into the crowd.

ED VOSS a master of the audio tape world came up from

Greenbackville, Virginia, looking fine and healthy.

DICK DOHERTY joined Ed at his table. Dick occasionally works Letterman at CBS. I bumped into BOB (RWD) DAVIS AND LIZ as well as PHIL HYMES and SNL's Unit Manager, KEN AIMONG, as well as Mr. and Mrs. JIM REINA in the Museum of Broadcasting at the salute to FRED COE. Fred's son was in the audience, and was asked to rise to the accolades and applause.

MARVIN and ANNE EINHORN are in theatre. Anne does Public Relations at Primary Stages Co. Marvin is an actor. Last worked at Mountain Theatre, in Roanoke, VA in a new play "Beast On The Moon."

It was nice to see DON MEANEY and ED HERLIHY, reminding us of past triumphers in the Golden Age.

IRVING MESSING tells us that he is still volunteering, helping his little old lady clientele survive. He's still trying to break 100 on the golf course and feeling *(and looking, H.)* good

for an old guy of 79. Bless you, Irv. Fellow former electrical worker JERRY SAVITCH feels great seeing all his old friends and reminiscing about his triumphs in the 50's and 60's.

JOHN and THERESA SCUOPO proud as a peacock of his new grandson Brandon also feels wonderful seeing old and familiar faces. Next year Brandon is scheduled at the podium for five minutes, says grandpa.

MICHAEL AND ARLENE SILVER just retired (2 years), admits they don't know how to behave — need some pointers. *(Probably Mike wants pointers how to behave — not... Hi Mike, H.)*

LEN GORDON also one of the 200 that attended Sunday. Len was at NBC in the 50's and 60's, retired, then Merrill Lynch VP in 1996. It's always nice to see the big guys hobnobbing with the little guys.

NORMAN DAVIDSON, designer, now working part time as a scenic artist at ABC-TV on "One Life to Live." *(All*

of us at PN send our condolences and blessings to Norm, for his wife passed on, April 23rd from a massive heart attack, suddenly and unexpected. H.)

ELIZABETH DAVIS (LIZ), Now Director of Guest Relations/Production Facilities East Coast, is looking for memorabilia to put on exhibit as part of the "New Tour", which will be launched in the late fall. If you have anything — photographs, set sketches, scripts (autographed?) — please let her know. ALSO, wants to hear from anyone who was a Page, as the Page program is celebrating its 65th year — and you old devils, a party is being planned! CALL LIZ at 212 664-2957 or her assistant, Tina at 212 664-6168. MEANWHILE Liz and



- 1 Bob Drier, Louise Malcolm,?
- 2 Ripp & Marilyn Jacobs Furey.
- 3 Helen Gorry, Joe Gianguinto, Elmer Gorry.
- 4 Vic Roby, Gene Garnes, Gene Frisch.



Ripp talking to Ariane,
Davy Wilson, Walt
Miller & his daughter,
Debbie.

Lillian Russo,
Gary Iorio, &
Marie Finnegan.
That's
Dan Grabel BG.



husband Bob Davis (of Lighting design fame) have been travelling through Italy and Austria (Probably looking for Milt Wyatt's friend with the Villa-but don't tell Liz that that was in France.) Bob & Liz plan a return trip next year. (Boy! wait till you see what's happening on 49th St. and the Plaza soon.)

JACK MARSHALL left us with this!
Vic Roby, please translate for us!

AUDREY MARSHALL has moved back with Jack on the 5th of April. Now they can share the rent and expenses and care for their parakeet Tweety, (Bless you two, that's the way it was meant to be. And Tweety thanks you also. H.)

(Liz Davis, here's a volunteer for the upcoming Page Party.) GLORIA CLYNE has come a long way since her page days. In her 55th year at NBC and "doing at age 72 what I wanted to do at 27." (Walt Balderson, you had better not hear this.) See what patience and waiting will do! (Yes, yes, go on Gloria, what are you doing?)

As a Field Producer (just one of the many facets of the job), I've interviewed the likes of Governor Whitman, D'Amato & Rudy (notice first names already!) to a gent celebrating his 112th birthday. Having Fun, she says? — You Betcha! (Sorry Baldy, false alarm.)

GENE GARNES has hit the Big Seven-OH! Is in good health, last year cataract removal worked out perfectly. "Spend time building (and flying?) radio-controlled airplanes." (Last issue we discovered he had built a real aircraft and flew it!) Also likes to shoot and edit video.

ED HERLIHY muses, "If the NBC buddies behind the glass didn't ride me at a "high gain", I never would have made it! Thanks my many

old friends. We spent our youth together,
Your old Buddy, Ed Herlihy

🌸 A POEM 🌸

Peacocks 2nd Hens in '98
Are looking good and sounding great.
Here's hoping that in 99
We'll all be here and feeling fine!

Vic Roby

MEL BRANDT wrote: but sing this first,
(New Yawk, New Yawk, it's a wonerful tow-w-w-w-ne! H.) "Isn't it interesting how in the past few days, "Frank" has made most of us more aware of our mortality?"

JOAN ANNETTE: Still working at Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey. "We handle workshops in Science and Math technology and train teachers from the State. Recently we have made a contact to form a partnership with a West Coast educational, Peaody Award-winning, video production company to co-produce some instructional TV in science and math. This proposal came about because I had worked for NBC and the contact at the West Coast company had worked for Bill Cosby!"

HERB and MARY POLAK enjoying retirement — rebuilding their Mineola home. (With all their treks to Turkey and the ancient world, he's learned some new design and building tricks, no doubt.) Both busy, busy. Mary still sings and Herb is into Ham Radio.

MARILYN JACOBS FUREY: She's going back to school again! Back to her childhood. (Guess everyone has been reading the Bible - For ye shall not enter the Kingdom of God unless ye believe as a child!) Well, NBC tries to keep us educated, so Marilyn is off to college at

Cambridge & Oxford this summer and Southampton College, guess where, in Southampton, over the July 4th weekend.

Count ROSE De RENZIS in, saying it's wonderful being at La Mag. She's also enjoying her retirement. (*I have yet to hear anyone not enjoying it.*)

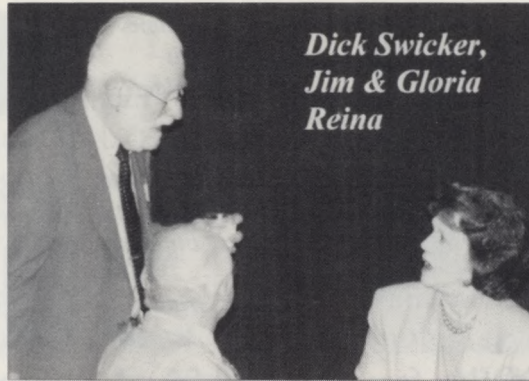
Rose's 3 sisters get together a lot and enjoy all of PN's gatherings 'cause she misses the nice people. (*Me too.*)

FRANCESCA and GEORGE PETERS graced us with their presence. Francesca is Pres. of The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Bergen County. She deserves more than a medal for the help she has been giving these people in NJ as well as in Fla. She's trying hard to take away the stigma of mental illness. Bless you.

MARIE & FRANK DeRIENZO: Frank tells us that he received a new valve. Sez he, no, not a spit valve for his trumpet, but a cow's. In July, 97 he had a new aortic valve put in during open heart surgery. He still plays his trumpet in a big band in Summit, NJ. Marie and he spent some time in Fla. as well. He has also thrown his cane away, for the knee replacements are doing fine.

Speaking of knees, HERB OXMAN, attending La Mag with the missus RENEE tells us that by this time next year, he hopes to have 2 new knees. (*Must be a television side effect. I thought I heard that ROGER TUTTLE had his pair greased and oiled and is practicing for the New York Marathon this fall! Ba Rump Bump! Missed you this year Roger. Hi, Pat.*)

DICK and ANNESLEY SWICKER: Since last year's luncheon, had a trip to China and new granddaughter! Both great fun. Dick does woodturning for restoration architects. Annesley keeps very busy with their church Altar



Dick Swicker,
Jim & Gloria
Reina

Guild. "Great to see smiling faces of old friends this afternoon."

ED AND LINDA ROSSI: Ed still working with the elderly and Linda enjoys being a Delegate Supervisor with the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant. Just back from 3 weeks in Hawaii and

hopes to go to Vera Cruz for the next one.

"Enjoying our triplets and now daughter is expecting her first child. Yes, we are enjoying life."

GENE FRISCH is enjoying life in Charlottesville, Virginia. Gene joined a community theater, building sets, producing Playbills and the advertising and anything else that needs doing. Got elected to the Board of Directors a few months ago. In the spare time, designed a new house, copying Rick Berman's Great Room and fireplace. Just yesterday it finally got under roof, despite continuing "El Nino" rains. When finished in August, you are all welcome and visit Jefferson Country.

NICK PONELLA says hello to everyone. Is really enjoying retirement, says he hasn't been doing too much.

GINNY SEIPT says Hi all! Great to see the familiar faces. Still works free-lance in the biz and trying to keep "my oar in the water."

After a fascinating trip to Russia last year, the RICK CARO's planning to go again to Russia. Still having fun doing financial planning & taxes part time. Rick's E-mail: ufcia@aol.com

BOB GARTHWAITE is here because PETER TINTLE hired him! The rest sez he, is history

which he will tell anyone who will sit and listen.

MARGE McGLYNN enjoys seeing old friends and so many new faces. Marge attended the NBCFR



Gery Savitch & Irv Messing.



Walter Hyde & William Shortridge.

bash in Orlando in March and is looking forward to visiting Key West and the Canary Islands in January.

CARMINE and LUCY ROCCO visited Sicily in March, enjoying touring the towns and cities. They have been making regular visits to North Carolina — Per que? Because, to see their two adopted granddaughters, Andrea and Christina. “Nice to see everyone again, also the first-timers.”

GARY & DOROTHY IORIO: “It’s nice to spend 3 months in Fla. but it’s nice to be back here. In Fla. had get-togethers with old buddies Dom Salviola, Joe Bascietta, Joe Maietta and Hank Gerling. Hank had to show us his beautiful home in West Palm Beach... The wind and rain made it a tough winter there, but instead of winter up here, we’d rather do it in Fla.

DAVE & ROBERTA WILSON attended La Mag. We hugged and talked briefly and discussed working. Commenting that when I retired and Dave was out of SNL, we worked three days on the David Brenner late nite a la

to his St. Augustine home. PHIL HYMES still consulting for SNL, attended the Fred Coe honoring. Phil doesn’t change, still looks great.

There was such a crowd at La Mag, that it was difficult to meander and greet all you folk. I did see MARIE FINNIGAN across the room with the TODAY group; BOB RIPPEN came by for our yearly hug. BOB ASMAN had traveled in from Washington. Oh, Liz Davis, Bob was in the Guest Relations group as was his wife, since you’re looking for folks to invite to your party. TONY

NELLE was there; looking distinguished and well at the same time. JOAN GIFFORD sat way up front so as not to miss a word and not at all looking like a retiree.

CATHERINE FAULKNER, still freelancing — book editing. Also studying at Julliard.

SUSAN DRURY is with Dramatists Guild Fund. Assists playwrights etc. Her boss is Sheldon Hornick, the writer of Fiddler On The Roof.

To whom it concerns, and those who called in to correct our spelling — BERYL PFIZER spells her name BERYL PFISER. (Sorry Beryl, it did get corrected, but the wrong page still made it to the printer. FV)

HARRY FLEETWOOD reminisces: “I left NBC to join WNCN, a mixed bag, beautiful music on the one hand, rotten people on the other. It made NBC seem like paradise. I was mad for radio as a kid; I don’t know when I did my homework. Then I arrived at NBC, there were still people from the Golden Age. To be on staff with someone like Hamilton was an impossible dream come true; to be pursued by people like George Sokolsky and John Crosby was beyond imagining! My first commercial, *Regent Cigarettes* went on the air one night. Right after the commercial, my guest said, “They killed Caruso, you know.” (*The ciggies.*)

I’ve run out of space, so in ending our day of airing programs, I thanked all the crew and ended with Bless You on the S.A. as well as the PL for tape etc., So here also, BLESS YOU ALL! I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoy writing it. Don’t let my tweaking upset anyone.

Much love,
Heino



See you all next year.

From Dudley's yellow pad.

The Announcers Open	
Vic Roby	} Roby
Mel Brant	
Bye	} Bye
Pardo	
Referee — Dick Dudley	

Tonight show, then we had four days off. That was a perfect start of easing into retirement. Back to La Mag, BOB VAN RY joined us and since SNL signed for the summer, Bob zipped down



at 30 rock



by Dan Grabel

Creative Capital

Mayor Rudy Giuliani has proclaimed New York City the creative capital of the world – a Hollywood East – and he says the tv and movie production industries have brought 70,000 jobs to the big apple. Try these 1997 stats: 213 movies filmed here, 105 nationally-syndicated tv series (talk shows, soaps, kids vid) produced, 21,339 shooting days, and \$2.37-billion spent in producing this fare. Much of that went on at the Kaufman-Astoria studios in Queens.

Seinfeld



The hoopla for Seinfeld's finale on May 14th was hyped like no other theatrical event we can recall. A

press agent's dream. Every editor wanted "in" on — the closed-set taping, on the final story line, on any statement the four stars uttered. As we write this piece a month after the show, we don't hear or see much of the Seinfeld quartet....outta sight, outta mind.

But NBC had to be happy with the finale, a 41.3 rating/58 share, with a minimum audience of 78-million, and possibly another 18-million (NBC's estimate) of those uncounted viewers who were in bars, clubs, and residences for "Seinfeld" parties.

Comparison: '98 Superbowl: 44 rating/ 67 share.

Residuals, Lovely Residuals

Don't feel too sorry for those out of work actors in the Seinfeld cast. The demand remains hot for replaying the episodes of the weekly show – NBC replayed at least 3 of the current year's work during this past season. Simultaneously, WPIX has been re-running older episodes every day since 1995 and will continue to do so until the year 2001. Then, Fox, channel 5, takes over for 5 more years, having paid \$78-million for the privilege – double

what WPIX paid. Traditionally, the price drops 40 percent on second re-runs, but not for Seinfeld.

It's amazing, but by the year 2001, Seinfeld's 175 episodes will have been aired at least 10 times with the cast getting a check for each rerun.

Larry David, the co-creator of Seinfeld, reportedly, already has earned \$100-million from his contribution to the series. A NYTimes profile said David was a flop when he was a bra salesman before turning creative genius.

Questionable taste?

When Karla Faye Tucker, the Texas murderer who killed her spouse and poisoned her son, was prepped for her lethal injection, tv's exemplary producers of gore – CNN, MSNBC and Fox – milked it to get every last horror junkie tuned in. MSNBC did its own countdown – "Now she's being strapped in the chair," "3 minutes to go." Then it pronounced Tucker executed. But there was one hitch. The execution hadn't even started. It was delayed and Karla was still awaiting her shot. MSNBC made a correction.

Greta Van Sustern, tv's expert on everything from the Bobick separation to O.J.'s shoe size, called the play-by-play for CNN.

In February, MSNBC reported on Frank Sinatra's health and broadcast an obit graphic – 1915 - 1998 – indicating the singer was dead. The station said the news script about hospitalization was correct but the graphic was a technical error.

Kaplow Honored

Russ Tornebene reports that Herb Kaplow, who began his news career at NBC radio in 1951, and ended it 3 years ago at ABC-tv, was inducted into Northwestern University's Hall of Achievement by Ken Bode, a former political reporter for NBC News and now Dean of the Medill School of Journalism. Kaplow was based in Washington throughout his career. Bode is still active, anchoring Washington Week in Review on PBS.

Uncle Miltie Marches On

Milton Berle was the butt of a pre-birthday roasting in Atlantic City in March where he quipped, "Waiting for me to retire is like leaving the porch light on for Jimmy Hoffa!" Berle will be 90 in July and has been entertaining audiences and stealing jokes since he was 5. Another one-liner, "This just came over the wires. A storm hit Camden, New Jersey. It did \$20-million dollars worth of



improvements!" Throwing the barbs were **Sid Caesar**, **Jack Carter** and **Norm Crosby**.

Couriers

Over the years, NBC treated its motorcycle couriers kindly (sometimes) and gave them opportunities to become EJ cameramen. **Joey Gaffa**, who we featured in a photo story in our last issue, was one of them. And now we've heard from **George Cavalliere** who has retired after 15 years behind a lens. He, too, switched from the bike world. George tells us that retiree Tommy Kane, another biker, now lives in North Carolina.

All in the Family

CBS radio and WINS, New York, are both owned by the same parent company (some part of Westinghouse) but they are in serious competition when it comes to making audience claims. CBS, perennially number two in audience numbers, dubs itself; "New York's Number One rated station." That could mean anything. WINS, which is number one, says clearly, "More people listen to WINS than any other radio station in the NY area."

We were surprised when we heard CBS' Dan Rather doing a promo for WINS on that station.

Whatever

When we published our "Whatever Became of" article in the last issue (since we couldn't sell it for cash elsewhere), we asked for follow-up offerings and **Jim Blaney, Sr.** has come through with these observations: "Whatever Became of..." Six day bike races...Stern Brothers department stores...Ronnie's Steak House...The Virginian...Arthur Maisel's... Woolworths...Provident Loan Society...Drago's Shoe Repair...Flagg Bros. shoes...Kresge's Five & Dime...The Brass Rail...the Roller Derby featuring "Tuffy"...the Astor Hotel...Headquarters Restaurant...and "HoHo" Chinese restaurant. (Also see page 9.)

Mary Alice

The one named Williams. She of the beautiful light blue eyes, once a popular WNBC anchor and later CNN anchor and vice president, is now the mother of 8 year old Alice, and 5 year old twins Laura and Sara. Mary Alice lives in New Jersey and hosts a nightly interview show, "Quiet Triumphs," on cable's faith-focused Odyssey Network.

Additionally, as an independent producer she has made 88 spots on women's health issues for ABC stations



and has been a writer/host on ABC/Lifetime cable tv.

For a long while she was also the spokesperson for Nynex.

With three younguns, she is happy to be away from the tireless demands of a network anchoring job.

Salesmanship

Did you get a letter during March thanking you for your help in putting together background material on the late pioneer tv producer **Fred Coe** for a book by John Kamperer? Several of us did and we wondered about it since we had offered no assistance. Turns out, methinks, it was a gimmick to get tv people to the Museum of TV & Radio which had a Fred Coe tribute night and probably wanted to fill the seats.

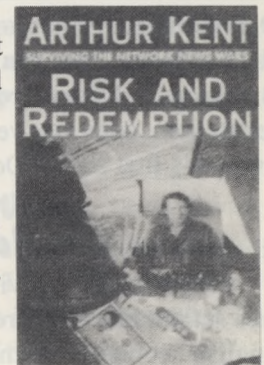
Hi Definition

Remember all that excitement about the coming of high definition television and what it would mean in improved quality of picture – but not of program content. Then it turned out HDTV would be so expensive few folks would be willing to throw out a good tv set just to get an HDTV picture. Now, Sony has announced it will build an HDTV digital center for NBC in Burbank for "The Tonight Show." Early '99 is set as the completion date. But if you don't have an HDTV receiver how are you going to enjoy this boon? I guess Sony's answer will be – buy a Sony HDTV set. Hey, why do they call it a set when you only get one?

All the nets will be transmitting HDTV, probably this fall. This switch may follow the pattern of color tv. NBC/RCA started broadcasting in color when nobody owned a set. People saw it in shop windows, and the next thing you knew, everyone had color sets. However, we think this will be a harder sell.

Kent's Book

Former Gulf War correspondent Arthur Kent has written a book titled "Risk & Redemption," subheaded "surviving the network news wars." One blurb screams "Who stole the news?" Newsman David Halberstam comments, "Immensely and sadly instructive in the changing values of the world of television...particularly as it concerns today's tv news magazines."



Good Lord

News producer Art Lord, still going strong on the west

coast, got himself printed in the NYTimes op-ed page when he defended good tv programming. He especially commented on the guy who boasted he does not permit his children to watch the tube. Said Lord, what about "Sesame Street," "Sixty Minutes," and "A&E"?

A Brown University professor has joined the fray, responding to Lord. He says "...kids learning skills cannot be enhanced by tv-watching. They can be imprinted, but that's passive." He adds, "Education is learning how to acquire knowledge and what to do with it. TV does not accomplish these goals."

Well, we'll have the last word. We agree with Art Lord. That professor's specialty is pediatrics, not education. You ask any kid who has watched "Sesame Street" if he/she has learned anything and you can be sure the answer will be YES! We're not stupid, you know!

Ellerbe's Nickel

Linda Ellerbee has been a longtime contributor to the Nickelodeon cable network and USA Today had kind words to say for her when previewing a program on people with disabilities. Four stars, said USA.



Black Rock Turns 50

CBS news has made it to the half century mark – the Golden Eye, they could call it – and spent a week on the Evening News with a retrospective of its accomplishments. In those 50 years since May 13, 1948, they've had only 3 and a half anchors...**Doug Edwards, Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather**, and half – **Connie Chung**. Let's see, NBC has had **John Cameron Swayze, Huntley-Brinkley, Brinkley**, and **Tom Brokaw**. What you might call a secure job...once you've landed it. And when was Swayze's first show? Do you remember?



Oh, How they Forget

The Broadway revival of "Cabaret," has the audience area set out like a cabaret and as part of the schtick, English actor Alan Cumming invites a man from the audience up on stage. One matinee he invited a distinguished-looking gentlemen up, did not recognize him, and asked his name. "**Walter Cronkite**," came the reply. Cumming, a foreigner after all, didn't recognize Cronkite but quickly realized he had come up short.

Moneybags in Radio

"Talkers" Magazine reports on the audio world. Limbaugh is down, Schlessinger is up. Well, of course, the Limbaugh is Rush, and he has slipped a bit in the Neilsons/Arbitron count what with everybody bored with Washington political garbage. Limbaugh still has a daily audience of 17.25 million, but Dr.



Limbaugh

Laura Schlessinger, a marriage and family counselor, has 18-million on 450 stations and her show generates \$30-million in ad revenue.



Dr. Laura

Limbaugh, on 600 stations, generates an estimated \$38-million – so down does not mean out. Number two on radio is Howard Stern with 17.5 million followers. Some industry people doubt these figures.

Cool, Man

Scott Barnett is a disk jockey in Southern View, Illinois, and the epitome of "calm, cool and collected." During his radio broadcast a guy carrying an axe menacingly entered his studio and approached Barnett. Without missing a cue, but maybe a commercial, the DJ grabbed the axe and subdued the intruder. Barnett never mentioned the incident during his broadcast.

Pia

Once there were two Pias, one called Zadora, the other Lindstrom. Well, the former has disappeared from public activity, but the other, one-time reporter/critic of WNBC, is now the producer/star of "Travels with Pia," a new offering seen on PBS. Son Justin Daly was the cameraman.

Molinari Struggles

Susan Molinari, the former congresswoman from Staten Island who chucked Washington to mind the kids and host a Saturday morning news show on CBS, is finding that attracting a tv audience may be a tougher job than solving world problems. Molinari's show continues to languish in the ratings after 5 months. One suggestion for her future is a return to politics.



Susan

How about replacing Betsy Ross, the N.Y. lieutenant governor who has been at odds with Governor Pataki almost since inauguration day and will not be on the November GOP ticket. Then again, being lieutenant governor may give Molinari the same

profile as she has being on the bottom of the tv ratings.

The Gridiron

How do you program a season of football when you don't have a contract with the NFL or a football team?



Chet Simmons

NBC is in that predicament along with Time-Warner and there's an idea kicking around that the solution for them is to start their own league. The NFL has been the only league around for some time – but once there was an American Football League (weren't the Jets one of the teams?) and in 1982 the U.S. Football League was created. **Chet Simmons**, once NBC's

president for Sports, was the first USFL commish. One rumor is that the possible new combine would own all the teams – that certainly would control salaries and expenses.

All the nets want the NFL, but ABC-tv must be having second thoughts about the \$550 million a year – that's per year – it paid for "Monday Night Football." Now, it wants the 211 affiliates to ante up \$50-million a year to help pay that tab or release commercial time to the net. CBS, which paid \$500-million for Sunday afternoon action, also wants "contributions."

And Fox? ditto. This has touched off a mutiny at the affils.

NBC, in the end, might have a good idea in creating its own league. Heck, one pass and pileup looks pretty much like another.

Wanna advertise on Superbowl XXXIII next January? The tab on Fox-tv will be \$2-million for a 30-second spot. Budweiser has signed on for 10 spots. That's a lot of suds.

Gumble's Public Eye

Bryant Gumble's magazine show has not been attracting the audience CBS had hoped for – not when you're paying him \$7-million a year for 5 years – so it has changed nights. It has switched from Wednesday to Tuesday at 9 and executive producer Michael Rubin has been replaced by one Jonathan Klein.



Gumble

Gloat Time

Which brings us to ratings for NBC...after all we call this column "at 30 Rock," and not "At Black Rock." The

peacock, verily, can strut and show all those feathers for, week after week it has garnered the top five positions in the Neilsons. The honorees: **ER**, **Seinfeld**, **Veronica's Closet**, **Friends**, and **Just Shoot Me**. Can you imagine a show with a title like that last one winning anything other than a prize from the National Rifle Assn?

"**Nightly News**" also is due some kudos. During a 21 week period it was ranked number one 20 times.

Black Rock

It's the old story. Ratings down, get a new set. Who needs good writing, good stories, good production. A lil razz m'taz and yuh got those creampuffs hanging on to every scripted word. Maybe.



TV critics at the Post and Daily News have been slashing away at channel two as the CBS station tries to pump its way out of the ratings cellar. The latest infusion is a high tech virtuality set with computer-generated images, futuristic news desks, and the ability of the anchors to walk "through" the graphics.

Steve Friedman, ex-Today, and now WCBS VP and station manager, often makes silly pronouncements and they do get reported so we repeat 'em for the benefit of his former colleagues. To wit: "The goal is to put something on the air that can take us into the future." Or, "We need a program that has peaks and valleys."

CBS has abandoned its strange slogan, "More news in less time." Boy! that's really a bummer. This kind of tv may bring back print journalism.

Frustration is what can be expected at CBS when the 11pm show dips 50 percent from its ratings four years ago. Here are the Neilsons earlier this year: ABC, 11.3/20. NBC, 11.3/20 and CBS 4.3/7

Everyone is a critic, so we'll offer a solution too. Hire experienced news people. Pay them more than their worth, so they'll bust their butts. Inspire loyalty with great NABET contracts. And watch the creativity spring forth. Hey, it'll be cheaper than football.

Famous Last Words

Who uttered these gems? "Character, it seems to me, is the continuing struggle for integrity. I hope my character will be getting better on the day I die if I live to be 90." or the answer see final paragraph of this column.

Fingerin' the Remote Control

Ever since the day a second tv station came on the air, viewers have been switching around to find the most appealing fare.



Now, the L.A. Times has done some polling, so we have a "scientific" observations about who goes where when the commercials come on or when the show gets to be a bore.

Conclusions: Attracting men is tough. Forty percent frequently change channels when the pitch comes on, while only 28 percent of women seek alternative programs for the ads...

- Sports shows are the most vulnerable to switching.
- Women like dramas, are more story-oriented. Men prefer sports.
- With increasing frequency, women, men, kids go off to separate rooms to watch their own favorites. There is little "family" viewing.

Penza

Ralph Penza, or maybe his producer, was enterprising when he reported from Havana during the Pope's visit. Penza found and interviewed fugitive Joanne Chesimard who fled to Cuba in 1979 – 24 years ago – after she was convicted of slaying a New Jersey state trooper.

For the 21st Century

Ever heard of target marketing? You will. Marketers predict that in 2 or 3 years technology will be developed that will permit cable operators and advertisers to target different ads to a single household: a teen-age girl will get a cosmetic commercial on her bedroom tv while her brother in the playroom watches one for a Leggo commercial. Both would be watching the same movie or music show. Today, its theory. But Kraft Foods and TCI believe it will happen and they are at work on commercials.

Other Bits & Pieces

WNBC reporter **Perri Peltz** has moved to ABC's 20/20 as a correspondent... What's become of **Marv Albert**? Despite all that early hoopla about requests for his services, probably generated by his agent, Marv is not back on the tube. One report says Madison Square Garden has conducted market surveys to determine his public acceptance.....Manhattan Spirit, a weekly publication, says it tried to interview several Radio City Rockettes and was told they are now unionized. They want \$22 per dancer, with a 6-dancer minimum – that's for talking, not dancing. When the story surfaced, the Music Hall said it was a misunderstanding. Can we call it "Foot



Marv.



Katie

in mouth?"...**Katie Couric**, the Today host who was shattered by the death of her husband **Jay Monahan**, age 42, came back to work after a month of adjustment....**Mister Rogers**, the children's tv programmer, celebrated his 30th year on the air... Cablevision, which recently bought up some TCI properties, now feeds programs to 70 percent of the tv sets in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties. When it was rumored Cablevision's **Charles Dolan** was going to buy the Yankees, his stock jumped 7 percent. On paper, that made Dolan worth \$1.44-billion.... CBS's **Murphy Brown** has been terminated after a decade on the tube. A frequent news-maker, the show ranked only 52 in the Nielsons...Remember NABET officer the late **Larry Dworkin**? NABET-CWA offers a scholarship in his name, and the current recipient is Scott Affens. ... In the year 2000 NBC will have the right to televise the movie "Titanic" five times. the tab: \$30-million....Despite the boredom often associated with the Oscar tv show, 87-million people watched it. That's a few less than the Superbowl, the biggest audience grabber....

Kiss of Death

The other shoe has dropped on Ellen DeGeneres' future at ABC-tv. The net took the show off the air in mid-season but planned to run 2 or 3 more episodes before the finale in mid-May. It turns out that there is some serious she-an and she-an in a kiss scene and plans for a one-sex wedding in those shows. They will not make it on ABC-tv. The final show, in effect, could be the swan song on ABC for the lesbian who came out last season. Add this: the show used to attract 15-million viewers. It is now down to 12-million. And its replacement is number one (Two Guys, A Girl & a Pizza Place – great title, but its seems to attract viewers anyway).

Money Talk

Want a salary increase? Get actor **Drew Carey**'s agent to handle your negotiations. The ABC sitcom comic got a raise from \$60,000 an episode to \$300,000....But Oscar winner/Best Actress **Helen Hunt** and **Paul Reiser** of NBC's "Mad About You," have done better – upping their per episode take to one million, each....Execs do even better. CBS chairman and CEO **Michael Jordan** got a 38 percent increase to \$3.2-million. **Mel Karmazin**, chairman of CBS's station group got more, \$8.2 mil. Time Warner execs did well too. CEO **Gerald Levin** got \$6.4-million and vice chairman **Ted**



Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser

Turner went home with \$5-mil. Not bad, since Turner got only one million last year....NBC's ex-chief financial officer, **Warren Jensen**, switched to Delta Airlines, and will get \$900,000 in salary and bonus this year. He has no experience in the airline industry.

Black & White

TN Media, a research firm, has looked into tv viewing along racial lines and comes up with these stats: Black viewers average 72.4 hours a week in front of the tube. Whites average 50.8 hours. Fourteen of the 20 most popular shows among blacks don't rank among the top 100 shows viewed by whites.

The Fox sit-com "Between Brothers," is number one among blacks, number 117 among whites. "Friends," number 4 among whites, is number 118 among blacks. The top ten for each group is totally different.

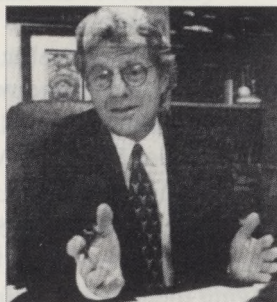
Seinfeld, number two with whites, is 54th among black viewers.

Children's' tv watching is quite different, with many crossing the color line daily and not even noticing

Another survey, this one by Johns Hopkins researchers, reports that kids who watch a lot of tv tend to be heavier than those who watch less. Black kids have the highest viewing rate.

Springer

We've never watched down-and-dirty talk show host Jerry Springer, but we were intrigued by a NYPost list of his guests during February sweeps month. It included: adult film stars, bare bosoms, bisexual men and women, self-admitted cheating men and women, dominatrixes, incestuous lovers, love triangles and quadrangles, pimps, transvestites and mothers working as hookers. A nice family crowd. And, oh yes, Springer dethroned Oprah from her number one ranking that month.



Jerry Springer.

Quality V-chip

Two years after Congress passed a law requiring the industry to enable parents to block objectionable programming from their homes, the FCC approved an electronic device – the v-chip – to handle that job in tv sets. Washington says "stand-alone" devices will be available this year but manufacturers say they won't be available in tv sets until next year. All major networks, except NBC and Black Entertainment tv, already use a quality designation at the beginning of programs: V for violence, S for sex, L for

foul language and D for suggestive dialogue. The two non-conformists use age-group categories for their aid to censorship.

What about quality? The Parents' Television Council watched 3 weeks of shows from 8 to 9pm and reports a 47 percent hike in vulgarities! TV is raunchier than ever.

The J-Man Speaks

The Daily News did a piece recently on Don Imus and hauled out some old quotes to depict his pithy and biting remarks. Maybe they are mean-spirited, but Imus manages to get his point across with a minimum of chatter. For instance, after well-rounded actress Sally Struthers made an appeal for food for the needy, he said "If you're going to beg for food, shouldn't you eat a little less of it yourself?" And after Senator D'Amato commented on unsavory friends of Bill and Hillary Clinton, Imus remarked about the senator, "All of his friends have bodies in the trunks of their cars!"

People

Retiree **Rick Kelly**, who spent his NBC career watching the tube, is now performing. He's a member of the Greenville Theatre Company in Westchester and just turned in a superb performance in the one acter titled "I'm Herbert." Earlier shows for him included "A Streetcar Named Desire," "A Delicate Balance," "Lend Me A Tenor," and "The Front Page."

Gail Yancosek is out as news director at Channel 5, but she holds on to her vp stripes and is now executive producer. Years ago, we recall, there was a statistic that the average news director held the job for a year and a half. Don't know what it is today....Slime purveyor **Howard Stern** makes his tv debut in August with a CBS show in the same time slot as "Saturday Night Live." Stern said tv standards now mirror his own....GE profits rose 11 1/2 percent to \$1.89-billion, number one in America....Newsman **Sandy Goodman** has taken the buyout deal and departed "Nightly News"...and this columnist got a story published in a recent Sunday NYTimes issue, writing an historic report on ski jumping near White Plains in the 1930s....**Al Primo**, I believe he once headed local news. Anyway, he's now Al Primo, president of Primo Eyewitness News Service, a news consultancy. Hang out your own shingle and everyone is a president!**Lee Meriwether** was due at Hurley's April 22 for a luncheon bash of the Barnaby Jones Luncheon Club. Lee, who we remember as Miss America-turned Today show weather girl back in the 50s, was a fixture on that TV crime-stopper show starring Buddy Ebsen.... Al Smith is joining the PN fold. No, not the guy in the brown derby -- he was Alfred E. Smith. Hey? Whatever happened to brown derbys anyway. Well, our Al was a Today show

factotum in the 1950s, production, and then I believe, writer, and after 25 years, in 1976, he got an invitation to become assistant to the president/ceo of BMI (Broadcast Music). Al spent 20 years there, ending up VP for Research & Information. He lives in New Rochelle, a retiree.

Famous Last Words Answer

That quote we printed near the top of this column came from none other than William Jefferson Clinton, the tarnished resident of the White House.

Stox Jocks

It seems almost every year that a guy who gives financial advice on the radio lands in the pokey because he's better at giving advice on how to make a million than actually making that million himself. The latest is Jerome Wenger who had a nationally-syndicated show which ran locally on WEVD. One advertiser gave Wenger 59,000 shares of its stock to tell his audience it was a winner. It worked. The stock went from 60 cents to \$1.60

Remember Bill Bresnan. He had a financial show on WEVD, and earlier on WABC. He's \$900,000 in hock and has gone bankrupt twice.

Strictly Bloomberg

An unsolicited little black box came in the day's mail and with it a card proclaimed "Bloomberg radio – the news that matters to you!"

Hark! It was a mini radio. It had 2 knobs. One for volume, the other for "fine tuning." I turned it on, and there was 1130kc, Bloomberg radio! I turned the two knobs and, try as I might, the Bloomberg radio got just one station – Bloomberg radio!

Now, that's a great promotion. Limited, but if you want the news, just turn it on, it is pre-dialed.

I must say, unfortunately, the news is written about as poorly as CBS and WINS radio, and the commercials, traffic and weather drone on and on like a broken record. And the speed of delivery? Like a 45rpm spinning at 78rpm. Its the best promotion for the printed word.

Jnx

Thanks again to **Roy Jesse Silver** for plowing through the daily press to provide us with material for this column. We never claim its all new, but it is news for some of us. ☐

Dan Grabel, retired newswriter, plies his writing skills in Scarsdale, NY.

Whatever Became of... Part 2

By Dan Grabel

Editors note: Never one to let a good idea fade into oblivion after using it only once, we offer some more memories of the 20th century.

M ahjongg...balsa wood model planes...elongating pennies by putting round ones on the rails of the Manhattan trolley lines in the 1930s...Cathedral models of the Philco radio...hand-rolled cigarettes...men sitting in the window of small local shops rolling cigars... early closing Wednesday when retail shops closed their doors at 1pm to enjoy life...when the A&P was known as the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company...boys in knickers...men in spats...ladies keeping their hands warm during winter using muffs...kids in leggings...NBC announcers in tuxedos...milk in glass bottles...the Borden and Sheffield Farms delivery men...the Duggan bakery home delivery...pre-homogenized milk when you could skim off the cream on top for your morning coffee... elevator men...bootblacks...high button shoes...long johns... Adam hats...bobby sox...Macys using the Red Star as its symbol...the wall at Wall Street...the canal at Canal street... sepia-colored photos...at Coney Island, Steeplechase, the funny place...and Luna Park...Guy Lombardo in concert at Jones Beach...concerts at Lewisohn stadium on the campus at City College when City College had the highest standards in town...medieval fairs at The Cloisters...the Albany-to-New York outboard motorboat race...stickball with the two sewers heavy hitters...the mobile vegetable peddler who brought his stuff to your neighborhood on a horse-drawn wagon...the ice man who delivered 50 cent chunks...the GE fridge with the motor on top...Pierce Arrow and Packard motor cars...radio's Mert & Marge...Easy Aces...Fibber Magee & Molly...Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians... The Rudy Valley variety show...and in late afternoon, Bobby Benson and Chandu the Magician...vaudeville at Loew's State and Capitol...Sinatra wowing them at The Paramount...when newspapers came out with Extras to report breaking news that just couldn't wait until tomorrow...PM, the Journal-American, the World-Telegram, and later the World-Telegram & Sun...and the Katzenjammer kids.

Yeah, *Whatever Became of Them*. . . ☐

*There is so much bad in the best of us.
And so much good in the worst of us.
That it doesn't behoove any of us to talk
about the rest of us!* Anon.

Lloyd Bridges, movie and TV veteran died March 11. He was 85. His half-century in acting ranged from the drama of "High Noon" to the adventure of TV's "Sea Hunt," NBC's "Joe Forrester" to the daft "Airplane!" Lloyd worked in seven television series. At the height of McCarthyism in the 1950s, his name was added to the industry's blacklist.

He later cleared his name with the FBI and congressional committees.



Lloyd Bridges as officer Joe Forrester.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Charles Kinnard, Engineering died of a heart attack on March 19 in Orlando, Florida. He was 75.

Charlie retired to Florida and took a job as a clown at Disneyland.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

John Gary, died in January. His lyrical baritone made him a popular balladeer during the 1960's and 70's. He was 65.

John was a native of Watertown, NY. He performed with Ken Murray's, "Blackout" while a teen-ager. After serving in the Marine Corps, he became a radio show regular on Don McNeill's "Breakfast Club" out of Chicago.

After his first album, "Catch a Rising Star," he recorded 49 more. He was a guest on numerous television shows, including the Tonight show and hosted the "John Gary Show" for several years.

John was a diver and held two underwater endurance records and created a scuba diving propulsion device used by many divers. His wife Lee, eight children, two brothers and a sister survive him.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Stan Martyn, sportscaster. Prominent for decades, died in Philadelphia at age 68 from heart failure.

Born Stanley Makowsky, Martyn broadcast a network radio show on NBC starting in 1978 as well as pre-game and halftime NFL football programs. He covered 5 Olympic games, from Mexico City, 1968, to Barcelona, 1992.

Prior to joining NBC he did news as well as sports for ABC radio, and when he departed NBC he joined WFAN as sports director and then went to WBBR until 1997.

(Note: Another Stan Martin is alive and well on WQEW music radio.)

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Irene Proner, wife of Arnie Proner, NY engineering died on Saturday, April 11, after a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. Arnie and Irene made their retirement home in Henderson, North Carolina.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Gary Nardino, producer. Nardino, a television executive who had brought many long-running situation comedies to the tube in a career dating back to the early 1970s, died in Los Angeles at age 62. Those shows included "Happy Days," "Cheers," and "Taxi."

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Bernard Meltzer, problem solver. Meltzer, trained as a civil engineer, died at 81 in New York. His WOR radio show, titled "What's Your Problem?" offered advice on the airwaves for 20 years until 1993 when Parkinson's disease forced him to retire. Despite his schmaltzy delivery, he became one of New York's most trusted and influential voices and a pioneer of talk radio.



Bernard Meltzer.

In 1967 Meltzer was a guest on a radio show at WCAU, Philadelphia. The next day, when the show host quit, the program director asked him to fill in. He remained on the air for the next 26 years!

⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Tom Tomizawa, newsman. Tom died this spring of a massive heart attack at the age of 69. He lived in Briarwood, Queens.

Surveying Tom's life-long achievements, one is overwhelmed by the impressive list of tv show credits – the major productions that reflect NBC's activities over a quarter century. Tom was part of them as writer, field producer, producer, executive producer.

First Tuesday, the newsmagazine, the weekly Frank Magee Report, space shots, and more than 20 major documentaries. For First Tuesday alone, he produced some one hundred stories.

These shows won 3 Emmys, 4 Emmy nominations, the DuPont Award, Sigma Delta Chi national writing award, Overseas Press Club Award, Headliner Club Award and the Medill School's Bastian award.

The subjects: politics, women, Watts, Kissinger, the oil business, China, violence, communism, and the press.

Tom was an amazing record keeper, and every assignment he ever had is precisely recorded, as if he realized this was going to be a life that touched history as it moved through the 20th century.

Tommy, a modest man, and obviously very capable, started at NBC News in 1962, then joined the Today show as a newswriter before getting tapped for docs.

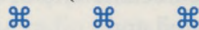
After leaving NBC in 1988 Tom freelanced as producer/writer at World Monitor TV and Potter Productions.

Experience in the print press included work as assistant city editor with the Army's Pacific Stars & Stripes (as a civilian), the Louisville Times and the Seymour, Indiana, Tribune.

He got his educational background at Northwestern University and earned a Master's degree in journalism at the Medill School. In later years he gave back his skill and knowledge working an adjunct professor at Brooklyn College and Columbia University. Earlier, he was instructor at Medill.

Paul Tomizawa, (ex-News Channel and MSNBC) one of Tom's 4 sons, said after a burglar stole Tom's NBC 25-year watch, his father remarked, "A watch only keeps time, not 25 years of wonderful friends and memories at NBC." Paul added his father treasured those memories throughout his life.

Survivors also include his wife Sayoko Kato, and sons Michael (audio engineer at Disney Studios), Roy (professor in Bangkok) and Nicholas (a law student.) (DG)



Helen Ward, 82, sang with Benny Goodman's band in the 1930's, died in April. She lived in Falls Church, VA.



Helen sang with Benny Goodman.

Ms. Ward's supple voice, her easy going sense of swing and her alluring stage presence were essential to the band's early success. She toured and recorded with the band from 1934 to 1936, and reunited occasionally with Goodman after World War II.

After high school she performed with various bands and appeared on radio programs on WOR and WNBC, where she became a staff musician.

She joined the Goodman band in 1934 when he was auditioning for an engagement at the Billy Rose Music Hall.

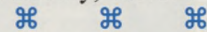
With the Goodman band, her recorded songs including "Goody Goody," "You Turned the Tables on Me," "It's Been So Long" and the million-seller "These Foolish Things." She recorded "All My Life" and "Too Good to Be True" with the Goodman trio.

After leaving the Goodman band, Ms. Ward turned to recording, appearing on albums with Teddy Wilson, Gene Krupa, Bob Crosby, Joe Sullivan and Harry James. She toured with the band led by Hal McIntyre in 1942 and 1943, and recorded with Red Norvo, Harry James, Wild Bill Davison and Peanuts Hucko. In 1944 she joined Harry James's band. In 1946-47 she produced musical variety shows on WMGM in New York City.

She retired from regular performing in the late 1940's but rejoined Goodman for tours and recordings in 1953, 1957 and 1958. In 1979, she came out of retirement, performing at clubs including the Waldorf-Astoria's Starlight Roof and the Rainbow Room in New York City,

and she made "The Helen Ward Song Book" (Lyricon) in 1981. Lyricon also plans to release an album of her performing in "Finian's Rainbow," from a production recorded in Westchester, NY.

Her husband, Bill Savory, survives her.



Peter Lind Hayes, entertainer. His career included work in everything from vaudeville to films, Broadway, nightclubs, radio and television, died in April. He was 82.

Known mostly for teaming with his wife, the actress Mary Healy, Mr. Hayes had a wide range of talents, including comic impressions, singing, songwriting and storytelling. He starred in several television series, including "The Peter Lind Hayes Show," on ABC in 1958, and "Peter Loves Mary," on NBC in 1960.

In the early 1960's the couple were hosts of a daily program on WOR radio from the basement of their home in New Rochelle, NY. They starred in the 1958 Broadway comedy "Who Was That Lady I Saw You With?"

Hayes made his debut in vaudeville at age 6, with his mother, Grace Hayes. At 16, he played New York's Palace Theater, still appearing with his mother.

Peter moved into nightclubs in 1939 with his talent for singing, dancing and comedy. That led into films, such as "Million Dollar Legs" with Betty Grable, "These Glamour Girls" with Lana Turner, and "Seven Days Leave" with Lucille Ball. During his nightclub work he met Mary Healy and they were married in 1940.

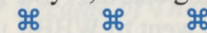
He was awarded a Bronze Star and two battle stars for his service in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He appeared in shows throughout the Pacific Theater.



Peter and his wife, Mary Healy.

He returned to film work in 1947 and appeared in "The Senator Was Indiscreet" with William Powell. But he gained his widest popularity in television and radio. In the early 1950's, he and his wife were regular substitute hosts for Arthur Godfrey on his television programs while he continued his nightclub work, appearing from New York to Las Vegas.

In addition to his wife, a son, Peter Michael Hayes, a daughter, Cathy Lind Hayes, and a grandchild survive him.



Gene Raymond, romantic-leading man in films of the 30s and 40s died May 3. He was 89. He starred from Broadway to Hollywood to radio and television, but perhaps best known for his marriage to singing star Jeanette MacDonald.

Among his most memorable films were "Flying Down to Rio," opposite Dolores Del Rio, the first pairing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers; "Red Dust," with Clark Gable

and Jean Harlow, in 1932; "Ex-Lady," with Bette Davis, and "Zoo in Budapest," with Loretta Young, in 1933; and "Sadie McKee," with Joan Crawford, in 1934. His last two films were "The Best Man" and "I'd Rather Be Rich" in 1964.

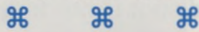
He and Jeanette MacDonald were married in 1937. They appeared in one film together, "Smilin' Through," in 1941. Their marriage lasted 28 years, until MacDonald died in 1965 at age 57.

Born Raymond Guion in New York City, he appeared in such shows as "Rip Van Winkle" and "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" when he was 5.

At 17 he appeared on Broadway in a two year run in "Cradle Snatchers" starring Edna May Oliver and Humphrey Bogart.

In television he hosted and occasionally acted in "Fireside Theatre," "Hollywood Summer Theatre," and "TV's Reader's Digest" in the 50's. He had guest roles in such series as "The Outer Limits," "Robert Montgomery Presents," "Playhouse 90," "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," "Ironside," "The Defenders," "Mannix," "The Name of the Game," "Lux Video Theater," "Kraft Television Theatre," and "U.S. Steel Hour." He also formed his own production company.

He wrote and directed the 1949 film "Million Dollar Weekend," wrote the television play "Prima Donna," and such songs as "Will You?" and "Let Me Always Sing."



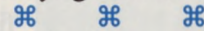
Phil Hartman, 49 and wife **Brynn**, 40. Phil tragically lost his life at the hands of his wife and she ended her own in what was described by police as a murder suicide.



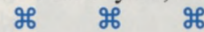
Hartman was born in Canada, but grew up in the US. He studied art and was a graphic designer before turning to stand-up comedy. He joined Saturday Night Live in 1986 and gained national recognition with his impersonations of more than 70 public figures in the news, from Ed McMahon to President Clinton, during his seven years on "SNL." He also was the voice of has-been actor Troy McClure and ambulance-chasing lawyer Lionel Hutz on Fox's "The Simpsons."

His work on "NewsRadio" was critically acclaimed but there was talk of the show being canceled, so it was a surprise when NBC announced before the tragedy that it would be back for another season.

In a recent interview Phil said, "I have success and wealth beyond my wildest dreams. I have a great career that is fun, not work. I'm the last person who should be whining because he doesn't always get what he wants."



J. Clifton Stieglbauer, Manager of Design Art Scenic Services died June 2 at Fort Myers, Florida. He was 80.



Frank Sinatra, the most renowned performer, the most successful performer — singer, actor, cultural innovator — of the 20th century died of a second heart attack in mid-May at 82 following 2 years of bed-ridden poor health. His voice, his love affairs, and his innovative style enthralled America for six decades.

A skinny kid from Hoboken who quit high school to sing with Tommy Dorsey's band, he went on to hob-nob with presidents and leave an estate estimated at \$200-million.



Teen idol recording with Tommy Dorsey - 1941

His legacy includes 59 movies, one of which ("From Here to Eternity") earned him an Oscar as 1953's best

supporting actor, another ("The House I Live In") which was an avant-garde statement against racism in 1945, won an Academy Award as a short film, and thousands of recordings which are heard on radio every day, all day, everywhere in America.

Sinatra appeared on NBC shows numerous times and used the 30 Rock studios as a rehearsal hall when he performed at the Music Hall.

His "Rat Pack," his music interpretations, and his flip comments have left an indelible mark on our culture, so much so that, come November, Hofstra University will hold an academic seminar on Sinatra's effect. One scholar has said, "They'll be teaching a course on Sinatra 50 years from now at Harvard." □ (DG)

(Also see Walter Miller's Sinatra comments in our LaMagnette story on page one)



1943 - Adoring fans.



Fairwell.

Roots

By Don Luftig

The innate desire to search out roots played an important part in our making a recent trip to Poland. The grandparents of my wife, Sandy, were



Warsaw then.



Warsaw now. Don and Sandy.

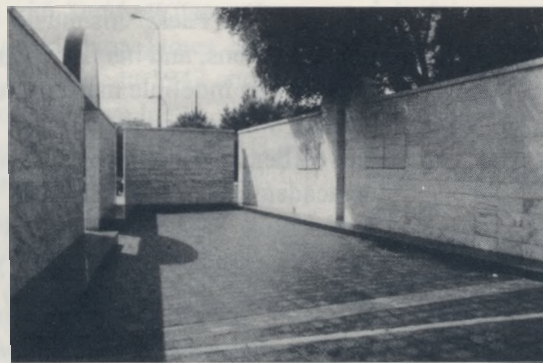
born and had lived their early years in Warsaw. By 1945, the war had leveled the city. We knew that their Warsaw home had been totally destroyed, but, we wanted to see where it had once been located. It wasn't difficult to find. The street name was the same, but an apartment building is now located where the original house had been. Quietly, we walked the area as

her grandparents might have done a century ago. This picture shows a part of Warsaw today. The Old Town Square, Stare Miasto, has been rebuilt in its original style. Today, it is filled with open air cafes, art galleries, and tourists. The open air cafes serve rather good food because each of the fine restaurants that line the square



Getto Heros Monument.

have an outdoor section. The waiters dash inside to place their orders and then out



The Umschlagplatz.

again to serve it piping hot in the warm sunshine.

Memorials are dotted like freckles on the face of Warsaw.

Nearby, the Ghetto Heroes Monument is made from granite blocks ordered from Sweden by Hitler in 1942 to construct a monument to the Third Reich's anticipated victory. The square was once the center of the Jewish Ghetto.

The Path of Remembrance is a series of memorial plaques located around the area, including one that marks the famous bunker at Mila 18.

Another memorial, known as the Umschlagplatz, is where Jews were loaded into cattle wagons bound for Treblinka and other death camps. The white monument was designed to resemble the cattle trucks used in the transportation of over three hundred thousand Jews. They left from here, never to return.

In a different part of the city is the life-size Warsaw Uprising Monument, built on the spot where the Home Army battalions launched their assault on the Nazis on August 1, 1944. It shows the insurgents rising from street-side sewers to begin their attack. The memorials serve as a reminder of a chapter of life that is difficult to imagine but must be continually read so it is not forgotten.

We trained to Krakow and strolled around the Rynek Glowny, the main square. It is the largest square still intact since medieval days. This city did not suffer the total destruction that Warsaw did and many of its buildings are still original. It is a city filled with unusual tourist outings.

Polish rulers lived and governed from the castle on Wawal



The Main Square in Krakow.



The Uprising Monument.



The Castle on Wawal Hill.



Sandy in front of the Salt Mine.



A Facinating Place.

Tableaus line the walls, all carved from the salt. Now, every time I shake salt onto my food, it shakes my memory of a most unusual location.

Our driver in Krakow took us on a "Schindler" tour. It turned out that he was hired by "Schindler" director Steven Spielberg as his personal driver while the movie was being filmed. As a guide, the driver spoke excellent



English and had a clean car. He proudly showed us an album of his pictures with the director and stars of the film. We saw the monument the country put up to honor the victims lost during the

Hill. Kings, poets and heroes lie in state here. The rooms are impressive. The ceiling in the Audience Hall was decorated with nearly two hundred carved heads staring down at you. Only thirty heads remain. There wasn't any explanation as to the fate of the others.

One of the most fascinating places to visit in the Krakow area is the Wieliczka Salt Mine. The site has been in existence for over 700 years. It is still actively being mined. We walked down over 327 feet to explore the many shafts and chambers. Along the way there were many incredible statues carved from salt.

At one point you can look down on a huge subterranean chamber. It has five enormous chandeliers.

At one point you can look down on a huge subterranean chamber. It has five enormous chandeliers.

Holocaust. We paused at Schindler's factory, where imperfect munitions were made for the Nazis. The film scenes became alive for us. Today, the factory makes electrical equipment.

On a now quiet corner, the Apteka Pod Orlem, the old ghetto pharmacy, which served as an underground railroad for the Jews, still stands. Today, it is a museum containing photographic and documentary records of life in the wartime ghetto. Its owner was the only non-Jewish Pole permitted to live in the ghetto. His assistance to Jews is testified to in letters at the Yad Vashem Center in Jerusalem.

A visit to Auschwitz is difficult to put into words. It cannot be described as a "tourist attraction." It is that, but it has been "sanitized" and one can only imagine what a hell it must have been in its time.

Warsaw and Krakow were emotional places to visit but it was not all sadness and memories. The cities are vibrant, warm, clean and filled with music in the squares. The people were friendly and helpful. I broke off a front tooth the first day I was in Krakow. A clerk from our hotel walked me over to a dental clinic a few blocks away. An x-ray was taken. The dentist told me I needed root canal work. I was not about to do that with a large portion of my vacation still in front of me, and with only two days left in Krakow. I asked if they could put a pin in the tooth and replace it. They did. My cost for the Polish dental visit, including the x-ray, was **eight** U.S. dollars. Maybe, I should have had my root canal and cap done there.

In Italy

Villa D'Este in Cernobbia on Lake Como in Italy is rated as the number one resort in the world. It is spectacular. Every place you look becomes a picture postcard view. The gardens were magnificent. The pool area, built out into the lake, was beautiful. The service and the food was 5 ★★★★★ star quality. One evening, while enjoying dinner on the terrace, the full moon came up over the mountain behind the lake. You can't buy that kind of dessert.

If you ever get the chance to go to Villa D'Este, take a small boat to the Isola Comacina, Lake Como's only island. There, for a priefixe of thirty-five dollars, you will enjoy a seven course meal, including wine. At the end of the meal, the



Villa D'Este



The boat to the Isola.

owner went through a fire ritual, making a most unusual coffee drink. This is to undo a mysterious curse cast on the island in 1169. We enjoyed the drink and survived the curse. With all the cognac that went into the ritual, (the lighting of which was part of the fire ritual) you forget the curse, and everything else. The meal lasts three hours and the memory much longer.

Boats run like taxis on Lake Como and we took them to visit various towns. The shopping and the settings were delightful.



Sandy & Don on the Isle.



Marostica's Chess Board Square.

In the small town of Marostica, we saw a town square laid out like a chess board. Tournaments are held here with live people acting as the chess pieces. Check mate.

Next stop was Verona, on the banks of the Adige River. Frankly, I didn't know of and had never heard of that river. Verona is a wonderful city to stroll through. Just off the Piazza Delle Erbe, we went to the house



The Verona Arena.

where Juliet, of Shakespeare fame, lived.

There is a statue of the fair young lady in the courtyard. Nowhere is there a mention of Romeo. Thousands of shops line the narrow streets and the crowds remind you of a mall during a Wednesday sale. Instead of taking a siesta, the crowds take to the streets.



Before the rain.

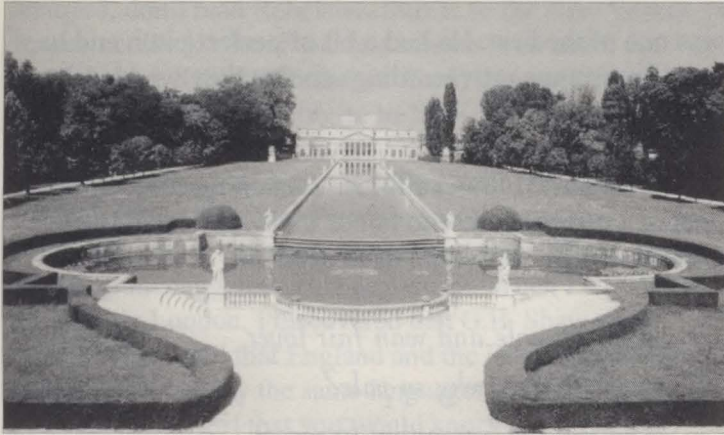
Our main reason for visiting Verona was to attend the outdoor performance of "Aida" at the Arena di Verona built by the Romans in the 1st century AD. The arena is located in the Piazza Bra at the center of the city. It is one of the largest and best preserved Roman amphitheatres anywhere. The crowds line up four hours in advance to get general admission seats. Sandy had ordered our wonderful seats far in advance. The staging of the opera was fabulous. There were hundreds in the cast. The sets were moved by a small army of stage hands. At the end of the act, when the scene had to be changed, lights came on facing the audience so that you couldn't see the movement of the props.



Two seats down front.

There were 22,000 people in the audience that night. At the beginning of the third act, it started to drizzle for a moment or two. The cast and the orchestra disappeared faster than you could say "Aida." An announcement was made: "The performance may or may not be continued." We waited for a half an hour. It was then close to midnight. No further news. We had seen two wonderful acts, We knew how the opera ended and decided to call it a most unusual night. We were glad that it didn't drizzle during Act I!

Our tour of Italy continued with visits to wonderful gardens and villas. The Villa La Rotondo on the outskirts of Vicenza is the most famous Palladian villa of them all. Serene and symmetrical, it was the model for Jefferson's



Villa Pisani.



St. Mark's Square.



The Maze at Pisani.

Monticello. Inside the villa, we met the owner, an Italian count who teaches architecture at the University of Virginia. We discovered this fact by talking to one of his

students who was on line with us before the villa opened that morning.

It was fun driving in Italy. The roads are fairly well marked and when we ran into difficulty, the natives were very friendly. Most of the people in the outer areas did



The Maze, try it.

not speak English, but I have learned how to ask for and understand directions in about four different languages. It was part of the fun in getting to places like the Villa Pisani. The villa was once owned by Napoleon. His whole army could have lived here. It is huge and beautiful.

What makes this tourist spot different is an unusual maze made of shrubbery. The shrubs are about eight feet tall. The object is get through the maze to reach a tower in the center. Without help from people in the tower, we would probably still be there.

Look at the maze. It is not easy to solve. Then imagine yourself inside the maze, unable to see anywhere but straight ahead. Amazing.

After visiting the Villa Cipriani, one of the most romantic places in the world, we drove to Venice, dropped off our Hertz car and took a water taxi through the Grand Canal right

to the door of our hotel, the Danielli.

St. Marks Square is the landmark of Venice. The weather was wonderful and we wandered through the narrow streets enjoying the shops and the outdoor cafes.

People line up to ride the gondolas. The magic of Venice is pausing to hear the songs being sung as the boats are guided through the canals.

It was a relaxing end to our vacation and we enjoyed taking a motor launch to the Excelsior Hotel to enjoy the beach and the pool areas.

One of our side trips was to the nearby island of Murano where we visited a glass blowing factory. We purchased a one-of-a-kind multi-colored vase which now sits on the mantel of our fireplace at home. We look at it and remember the mosaic pieces of our great vacation.

As always, it was good to get back home and think about and plan our next trip. Retiring has been living a dream by seeing the world and getting a perspective that makes life intensify. Looking back is good. Looking forward is great. □



Guided through the canals.

When they are home, Don and Sandy live in North Caldwell, New Jersey.



THE EAR BENDERS

By Dick Dudley

They haven't found a cure for HEARTBURN, but they have gained fame by becoming definitions in the NYTimes crossword puzzle. I am speaking of Edwin Newman, Don Pardo and Delbert Mann. Ed also made the Lancaster Sunday News and A Double Acrostic Puzzle. I hope they will wear their fame as well as Madam Curie did when she discovered Radium, but not have the unfortunate result she did.

Fame in our medium is as fickle as a fireworks sparkler on the 4th of July. How many of you remember Billy Jones or Ernie Hare. There are no plaques mounted on studio walls honoring the engineers who kept a good balance for the music of Toscanini. I HAVE YET TO FIND ONE MENTIONED IN A CROSSWORD PUZZLE. That is because their contributions are not obvious to the shrieking audience as are the performers. Of course, they do get a mention on the crawl, which zooms by too rapidly to be read, except for that guy who can read War and Peace in ten minutes.

I am not diminishing the importance of the Announcer or the Director or the Newsmen; I am extolling the importance of the engineers who invented Radio and Television. Which leads me to tell of a program, which I invented called: Rockabye Dudley. Tony Provost, who was the manager of WEA, asked me if I had an idea for something to fill the fifteen minutes following Ken Banghart's news on the three nights when there was no Morton Downey show. I thought something soft would be perfect for eleven fifteen PM and I decided that pleasant music and poetry would set the right mood. Not just any poetry, but rhymes that hit you like one of Soupy Sales meringue pies. I found a wonderful theme in the recording of Reginald Kell playing the Snowy Breasted Pearl and from there the music segued until the signoff. The poems I wrote myself and recited as if they were the Psalms of David. I could never have achieved the results I wanted had it not been for the engineers who gracefully knitted my recordings together. Charles Gray

was one of the best. He had a bit of perfect pitch and he would rearrange my recordings so that they wedded perfectly.

Recently, I found a folder containing some of the poems. I dedicate these to honor the Dial Benders, without whom, we would have dead air.

*Why so pale and wan fair lover,
Prithee, why so pale?*

*Did you not know that Escargot,
Is another name for snail?*

*Feed me grass and feed me dew,
and fairy food of weblike hue.*

*Pray, let my diet with air abound.
and yet I'll fail to lose a pound*

*I love to gaze into thine eyes.
No lovelier eyes ere have I seen.*

*For one eye's violet, one is blue,
The other one a vivid green.*

*Drink to me only with thine eyes,
Do not thy elbow bend.*

*For if you do - I'm sure that you,
Are off on a lost weekend.*

You are welcomed to set these to music or paint them in an anthology. Or dismiss them from your mind. Try Keats or Shelly instead.

At our last luncheon, I could, not help, but notice the sea of white hair. Had there been a snowstorm, most of us would have disappeared, Mel Brandt, a very commercial announcer said: "I wish I had the hair dye concession." There is really nothing remarkable about growing old. It just takes time.

I remember once standing at the bar in Hurley's with Henry Morgan. We were discussing aging and I quoted Browning's poem, which begins:

*Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be.*

Henry said, "Bulldung." I sometimes think the dung of a whale would be more suitable. I thank Ms Peyser for setting a precedent for allowing me to be scatological. If you are

annoyed, don't read Rabelais, Balzac or the New Yorker Magazine. Back when NBC had censors, you could not use the word "HELL" on the air. Fred Allen said when he'd die he would probably go to "HECK." You no doubt remember Milton Berle saying: "What the hey." Some comedians use Anglo Saxon words for shock value. Our Standup Comedian Peter Peterson (speaking at our luncheon) will never be accused of bad taste as long as he has his granddaughter as his gag-writer. When I worked at the BBC in London, I discovered that G.B. Shaw was right when he said that England and the U.S.A. were two countries divided by the same language. In Great Britain you could tell a girl that you would knock her up in the morning and not get slapped. It merely meant that you telephone her or would come by early to take her to the Cricket match. Edwin Newman, who was our man in London no doubt, can speak fluent cockney verse slang. If he does, I doll my Titfer to him, and then in Scotland I learned to say: "Iffen can say it's a brau bricht moonlicht nicht, yere all right ye ken."

I leave you with a riddle for Pete's granddaughter.

Why do Announcers have to have small hands?
(Ans. To have wee paws for station identification.)

Dick Dudley writes to us from Willow Street, PA.

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- Katzman, Harry harryk@digital.net

Correction:

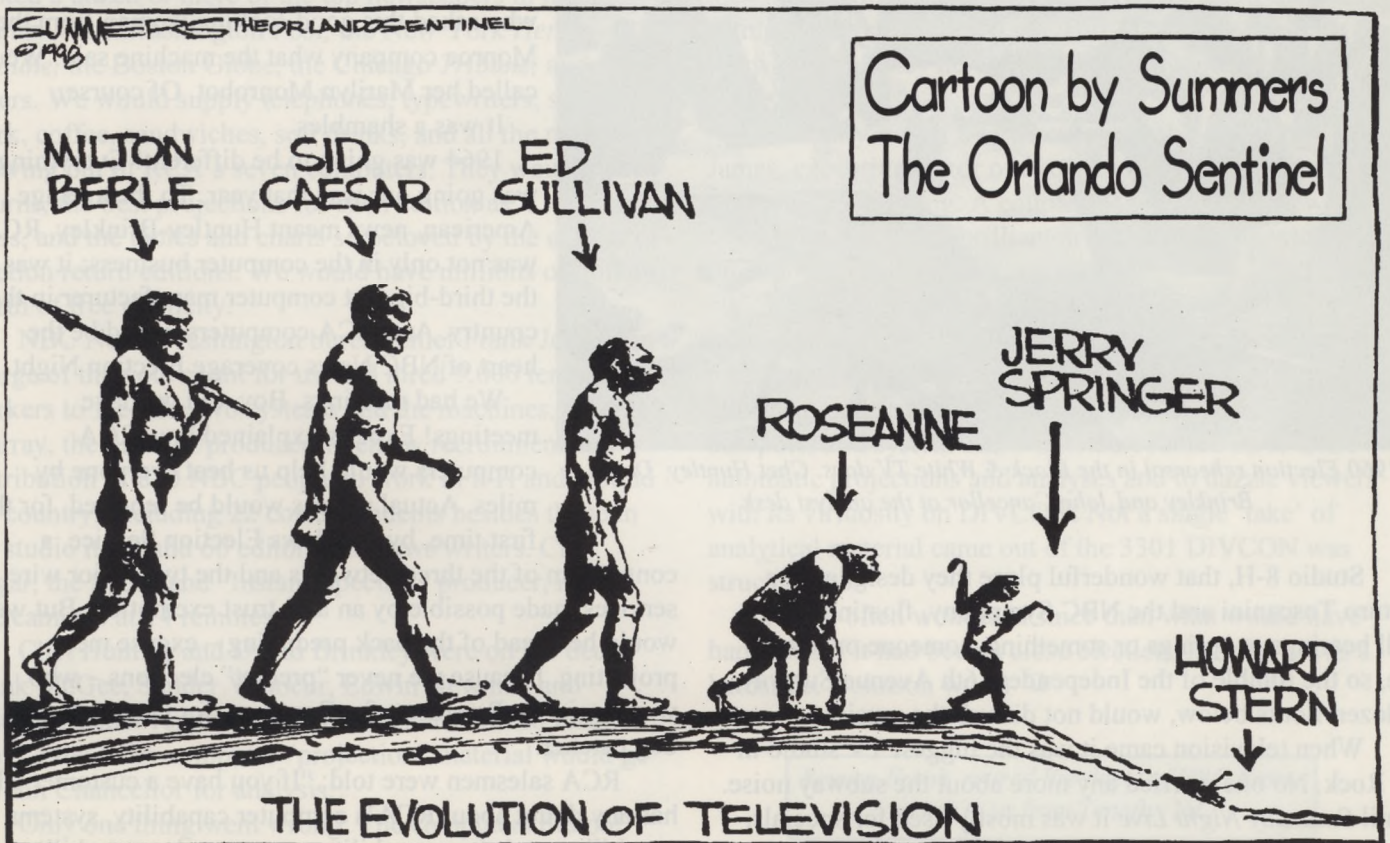
- Jacobs Furey, Marilyn mjacobsfur@aol.com
- Polak, Herb 105452.1646@compuserve.com

NABET:

- On the Web nabetlocal11.org
- E-Mail nabet11@igc.org

Web sites for those interested in the history of radio and tv.
www.mcs.net/~richsam - also - www.novia.net/~ereitan

*A new telephone and e-mail directory is planned.
Send additions or corrections to Peter Peterson.*



Dick Dudley sent us this cartoon from his local paper.

ELECTION NIGHTS IN STUDIO 8H

by REUVEN FRANK

I see the newspapers are talking politics again. This bozo is making speeches in Iowa; that one is shaking hands in diners in New Hampshire. Campaigns we remember began on Labor Day and closed on Election Day. Now they go on all the time. But they all ended lip in the same place: 8H.



1960 Election rehearsal in the Black & White TV days. Chet Huntley, David Brinkley and John Chancellor at the analyst desk.

Studio 8-H, that wonderful place they designed for Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony, floating it on ball bearings or springs or something, someone once told me, so the rumble of the Independent 6th Avenue Subway, a dozen floors below, would not disturb the music.

When television came it was the biggest TV studio in 30 Rock. No one worried any more about the subway noise. Until *Saturday Night Live* it was mostly used for specials, like the great events of the conquest of space, until man walked on the moon for the second time and the novelty

wore off.

But mostly, for me, 8-H was Election Night. My first was 1950. I had been at NBC News four months. I had been told to prepare little film profiles of important new Senators and Congressmen who might be elected so we could tell the public who they were, and to sit beside the producer in that ninth floor control room telling him I had a nice two-minute film piece racked up and ready to roll for some guy just elected. He always had something better to go to. Not one of my pieces ran that night. Or any night. I was learning the TV news business.

My last 8-H Election Night was 1982, also a non-Presidential year. By that time I was in management, watching other people work, careful not to interfere and louse up the program.

The one I remember most was 1964, Lyndon Johnson and Barry Goldwater, the year we went all *out* for computers. Computers had been used before – to “spot trends” and things like that. CBS started it in 1952 with a Remington-Rand Univac, not a computer as we now know them, but a recent ancestor, “Univac” entered the language that night.

After CBS got all the advance publicity for Univac, NBC News fought feebly back with something called a Monrobot from Monroe Calculator. We would switch to Morgan Beatty who asked this good-looking woman from the Monroe company what the machine said. We called her Marilyn Monrobot. Of course.

It was a shambles.

1964 was going to be different! Everything was going our way that year. To the average American, news meant Huntley-Brinkley. RCA was not only in the computer business; it was the third-biggest computer manufacturer in the country. And RCA computers would be the heart of NBC News coverage Election Night.

We had meetings. Boy, did we have meetings! Experts explained how RCA computers would help us beat everyone by miles. Actual returns would be reported, for the first time, by the News Election Service, a consortium of the three networks and the two major wire services made possible by an anti-trust exemption. But we would be ahead of the pack predicting – excuse me, projecting, because we never “predict” elections – who would win for President, for Congress, for Governor, for dog catcher.

RCA salesmen were told: “If you have a customer who has any doubt about RCA’s computer capability, systems capability, real-time capability, programming capability, or any other capability, this is the time to prove we’re not just

talking – we’re doing. And we can prove our point right in their own living rooms – just get them to watch NBC.”

The computers fed our usual two projection Systems, both separate from the vote gatherers and reporters put together by the News Election Service. One, run by a Princeton mathematics professor, took the vote from precincts especially picked in advance and analyzed for their makeup as to age, income and education levels, religion, race, and all the other headings that come under “demographics.” Any change from previous elections led to the conclusion, say, that elderly wall-eyed Ruthenians earning over \$25,000 a year were going for Johnson by an extra three per cent. What the heck, it’s a long night, and you have to report *something*. The other system, developed and run by a former head of the U.S. Census, put our own people to count votes in precincts known to have voted for the winner in previous elections. Here the advantage was speed by getting our own returns first. That year, as every year, our rule was we never projected anyone unless both systems agreed.

Studio 8-G was turned over to Joe Derby and the Press Department who had invited a dozen or more of the top newspapers in the country – the *Washington Post*, the *New York Herald-Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and others. We would supply telephones, typewriters, space to work, coffee, sandwiches, soft drinks, and all the material spewing out of RCA’s seven computers. They would have returns, the best projections for each edition as it went to press, and the tables and charts so beloved by the editors of election return editions. We would have millions of dollars, worth of free publicity.

NBC News Washington bureau chief Frank Jordan, in charge of the vote count for us, had hired 9,000 temporary workers to feed the two systems and the machines. George Murray, the director/producer, oversaw recruitment and distribution of 820 NBC people to work in 8-H and around the country, including 22 correspondents besides those in the studio itself and 60 editors and news writers. Chet Hagar, the Space and “Instant Specials” producer, ran 60 live cameras at 14 remotes.

Chet Huntley and David Brinkley were on the deck; Frank McGee, Sander Vanocur, Edwin Newman and Merrill Mueller reported from the regional and so forth “bays”; the RCA computer “projection” material would go to John Chancellor for analysis.

Only one thing went wrong: The computers did not work.

We took the air at 8 P.M. At 8:15, Shad Northshield, who was Chancellor’s producer, came to the ninth floor control room. I was sitting with the boss, Bill McAndrew, on the back deck, above the director, TD, AD, video and audio on the level below. Shad crept in, crouched low, on the lower level, and slowly stood up so that he faced me. He looked like someone who had just been in a train wreck.

“The damned machines won’t work.”

“Who knows?”

“I know. Chancellor knows. And, of course, the RCA guys.”

“Don’t tell anybody.”

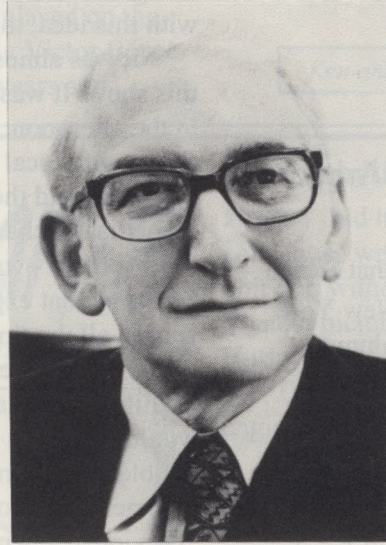
Fortunately, weeks before, trusting no machines, Jordan and Northshield had been leery enough to develop a back-up plan. They put extra people in four regional vote gathering centers to identify the special precincts for those two systems and get them to us by phone. Northshield took that information and fed it into the fancy display devices, called “DIVCON”, put there for the computer material we were promised. It wouldn’t be what the RCA geniuses promised, but it would at least save us from having to show blank frames. (No, I don’t remember what DIVCON stood for.)

All that night, Chet and David never knew the Computers were not working. Bill McAndrew did not know. Those fancy newspaper political reporters in 8-G never found out.

The only one in 8-G who figured it out was Edwin H. James, executive editor of *Broadcasting* magazine, and that night he said nothing. A couple of months later he wrote what I thought was a brilliant article describing what went on and what went wrong.

“Considering the number of people who were intimately involved in the NBC show, he wrote, “it is remarkable that the best-kept secret of the election night of 1964 was and still is the utter collapse of the elaborate computerized system that NBC had counted on to issue automatic projections and analyses and to dazzle viewers with its virtuosity on DIVCON. Not a single ‘take’ of analytical material came out of the 3301 DIVCON was struck dumb.”

I have often wondered since then what would have happened if it had been a close election, luckily, it was a landslide. (Johnson won.) □



Reuven Frank.

Reuven Frank, retired President of NBC News, writes to us from Tenafly, NJ.

KEN'S

ORDER



by
Ken Arber

I recently read in the Liz Smith Column, that Skitch Henderson had celebrated his 80th birth day in New York at Carnegie Hall. As told by Liz Smith in her column, Steve Allen was there to congratulate Skitch on his birthday, and made the open remark, saying, "And to think Carnegie Hall was founded by Andrew Carnegie, that was back when he only had one Delicatessen." Steve delivered this humorous remark from the stage of the great hall to all of us from New York, who are all familiar with the Hall and the "Carnegie" delicatessen. As for me, the late Phil Falcone and I had lunch there many times. That's where I first learned that one does not have "lox on rye bread" when the waiter said to me. "One has Lox on a Bagel."

I might add that Steve Allen recently turned 80. A lot of our PN retirees have also become *octogenarian* members, including myself (87).

Others showed up to pay tribute to Skitch, Cyd Charisse, Fred Astaire's most gorgeous leading lady, and her famous husband Tony Martin. When I was an instructor at Fort Monmouth, Tony was also at the Signal Corps School. Others who attended Skitch's Birthday celebration, were Tommy Newsome a band member who worked on the Johnny Carson show, and he later worked with the Doc Severinsen band.

Having worked on the shows of both Skitch and Steve Allen, I came to know them both well. I remember speaking Skitch about the war years, and I believe he was in the air force as a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air force.

The show I worked on with Skitch was the Faye and Skitch Show, and I also worked on the Steve Allen Show, both at the 67th street studios. Working with Faye and Skitch, was a pleasure. Beautiful music, and great talent. The show was a very high class show in the late afternoon, consisting of a large group of musicians, who were members of the NBC symphony orchestra,

conducted by Skitch. The set consisted of a gigantic cyclorama, called a cyc, that went around the entire studio encompassing the orchestra, of about 30 or 40 musicians. The cyc was lighted from behind with several potted palms in front and a large standing slow turning fan, that blew on the cloth cyc, causing it to ripple. This was very effective, and very economical, as the show needed no other studio set. I believe this arrangement was the idea of Director Dwight Hemion, whom I thought was brilliant to come up with this idea, together with the producer Johnny Pizer.

It was almost impossible to come up with a sponsor for this show. It was a very high class type of show for this late in the afternoon, and one must remember it had to be a local show, with local sponsor. However some enterprising time salesman sold the show to a "used car" company, so they immediately changed the name from "Used Car" to "Previously" owned automobile. In fact it probably was the first time that expression was used. Down here in Florida it is used all the time.

The cars were only of the best makes, Lincoln's, Cadillac's, Packard's, Rolls Royce's and such. The cars would be driven up to the front door on 67th. street, to the double door entrance of the studio building, and a commercial announcer would be there to describe he "Previously Owned" car, and there would be one of the studio TV cameras rolled out through the studio doors, in advance of the commercial, together with a microphone for the announcer, and some additional lighting set up to help the sunlight, that was starting to come from the west side of the street. When the commercial ended, the camera would return to studio "B" and the "Faye and Skitch" show would continue. It all worked smoothly.

During the musical selections that Skitch would conduct he, from time to time, would refer to the arrangement of the number as, "This was a Ken Arber arrangement." Of course this was an inside joke, as he had come into the studio one after noon and found me playing on the Studio grand piano, so he was aware that I played the piano. Skitch mentioned to me that they had received some requests as to where the viewer could get those arrangements, and later asked me if I would come on the show, so he could show that there really was a "Ken Arber." Of course, I agreed, and a date for my appearance was scheduled. The producer, John Pizer, paid me in cash before the show according to the Nabet and talent agreement, and NBC arranged to hold over Technical Director, Frank DeRienzo from the Home Show to cover me. So Frank made some OT, that's overtime, out of my appearance. Thank goodness, all went well for my "Fifteen Minutes of Fame," and I enjoyed being interviewed by Skitch and sitting next to lovely Mrs. Skitch Henderson, AKA Faye Emerson. She asked me about my being the Technical Director, and what that encompassed.

Later when the show was going off the air they decided to interview, both the audio engineer, Horace Ruiz, and the lighting director, Roz Bigelow, at some later date. I am sure they enjoyed their time on the air with Faye and Skitch as much as I did.

Skitch had a theme number for the Faye and Skitch show that he called, "FASIE," I liked it so much that I learned it and would play it at home. When we bought our cabin-cruiser, we named it "JAYSIE" for my wife Jaye. In retrospect, I just remembered the song that I played on the show with Skitch was the theme music for the Victor Borgé show where I was the audio engineer, many years ago.

Howdy-gets a chair of his own.


That's right, Howdy Doody. Palm Beach author T.J. Fisher, who recently bought him at auction in New York for \$113,431, sat him in his own chair. It was one of three originals produced for the popular TV show that ran from 1947-60. Fisher's marionette is known as "Photo Doody" — unlike the performing Howdy, he has special joints so he could be posed for still photography — no strings. Howdy was displayed at Testal's Restaurant in Palm Beach. □

Ken and Jaye Arber live in Boynton Beach, FL.

Jacobs Departs

By Dan Gabel

A VERY SPECIAL RETIREMENT DINNER
Honoring
Marilyn Jacobs Furey



Hurley's
1240 SIXTH AVE. AT 49th
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1998

DINNER AND GIFT \$50. GIFT ONLY \$15.
Please Contact
RANDY WANDS OR **JOE DICSO**



Associate Director Marilyn Jacobs

Furey bid her adieu to NBC late in February and colleagues were not about to have that situation pass into oblivion without a well-earned bash. Joe Dicso and Randy Wands (pictured with Marilyn) arranged the evening at Hurley's upstairs dining room and it was an SRO occasion

Director's Guild (DGA) members, newspeople and engineers in attendance.

Marilyn writes: "Since leaving, I'm so busy that I can't believe it. I'm a member of the DGA national board, the Pension & Health board and The Artists Right Foundation (it fights to keep black and white films black and white). Those chores require seven trips a year to L.A. and 12 meetings in NY."

She is planning to study abroad at Oxford and Cambridge Universities (week-long courses) in England

this summer under an NBC tuition reimbursement program. Recent trips have included Mexico and Florida.

Other than that she attends many of the DGA screenings (8 a month) and is an enthusiastic Broadway play-goer.

She started at NBC in 1955 as a production assistant on the Steve Allen "Tonight" show

and often showed up on the tube in the "crazy shots," and in "man in the street" shticks. Other directing credits include: "The Doctors," "Jeopardy," "Meet the Press," Kennedy funerals, Watergate hearings, and the Thanksgiving Day parade.

She has received the DGA's Franklin Schaffner Achievement award and was elected to the YMCA Academy of Women Achievers. □

*PNers say,
"Good Luck Marilyn!"*

Near Encounter

By Frank Vierling

A short paragraph in Fred Friendly's NYTimes obituary caught my eye: "*Fred Friendly received the Soldier's Medal for rescue work on the Bombay, India, docks following a freighter explosion.*" That was April 14, 1944.

That same day I was waiting in Bombay's Victoria Railroad Station, along with some 15 other GIs, to depart across India for Calcutta. There was an unexplained delay.

The station was a vast open sided terminal covered by a high arching glass roof – like a giant greenhouse. The platforms were swarming with travelers, British soldiers, and vendors of every description. My companions were leaning against our "third-class" coach; it would be our home for the days to come. I was facing my companions in what turned out to be the direction of the harbor. Most of us had landed at this "Gateway to India" just two weeks before – on April Fool's Day.

Suddenly I saw a great plume of fire and smoke shoot into the air followed by an ear shattering blast. Bedlam broke out on the platform as people ran for cover. Shrapnel from the harbor blast tore through the glass roof showering glass and ship parts on the people below. We dove for cover into our train car.

Our unexplained delay was soon made clear. The railroad passed through the dock area. A ship fire caused our delay and the resulting explosion tore up our tracks.

We were returned to camp, but soon returned to the docks for rescue work and moving munitions from the burning piers. A white-hot fire engulfed the end of the pier I worked on. Tracer bullets exploded and ricocheted through the steel roof trusses punctuated by small multiple explosions. I worked mostly with British "Tommys" loading their lorries.

We worked until the fire got too near, and too hot, and the ricocheting ammo got uncomfortably close. We were exhausted. Soon after we were ordered out, the whole pier was consumed in flame.

Bombay harbor was crowded with Allied ships. The 7,142-ton vessel, *Fort Stikine* (the cause of the disaster) was carrying £2 million worth of gold bars, explosives, airplanes, ammunition, cotton and fish. Nearby, a seaman aboard the *Belray* saw smoke coming from a *Stikine* ventilator, but made no report. Red flags, required to indicate explosive cargo, were not flying.

Stevadores returning from lunch found Number 2 hold filled with smoke and scrambled dockside screaming, "FIRE!" What followed was a series of errors in judgment resulting in one of the worst disasters recorded during WW II.

The wharf fire brigade did nothing while their leader phoned for reinforcements. A fire officer arrived with 2 pumps at 2:25 and immediately left to phone for more men and more pumps. Later yet the chief of the Bombay fire brigade arrived.

An ordnance officer, noting the explosive cargo, advised the ship be immediately scuttled, but the harbor was too shallow. It was then suggested the *Stikine* put to sea. The captain of the ship left to phone his insurer for advice.

The explosives aboard the *Stikine* made it a 400 foot-long bomb surrounded by ships unaware of the danger. Seamen on neighboring vessels, the *Belray* and *Japalanda*, watched the activity with casual interest.

Fire fighters were pumping water into the burning hold when suddenly the smoke color changed to yellowish-brown signifying explosives. Without further warning the ship became a thousand Roman candles followed by an explosion that rocked Bombay. A 2nd explosion hurled flaming metal and debris 3,000 feet in the air raining death over a one-mile circle. Fires broke out on docks, in business buildings, and in homes. The force of the 2nd explosion created a wave that lifted the 5,000-ton *Japalanda* 60

feet in the air and dropped it on dockside sheds.

Incomplete death count - 1500; injured - 3000. 100,000 tons of Allied shipping destroyed valued at above \$1 billion. Twenty-seven ships were sunk or burned out. Docks and buildings were destroyed. It required 6 months and 10,000 men and equipment to clear the harbor of more than a million tons of debris. The toll of life was determined only by the headcount of treated victims and the dead. The unknown number of those blown to bits or cremated could have raised the official count by 1,000 or more.

The cause of the fire was never determined. There were suspicions, but no proof of sabotage. In all it added up to one of the worst, but least-known, disasters of WW II. (See note below.)

The following day our group return to the docks, all but me. I was selected to stay in camp as "barracks guard." That evening weary GIs straggled in after a grueling and grizzly day's work. I had a pleasant day reading on my cot.

While waiting for our next transportation, we watched the native vendors who had free access to the camp. MacGregor, the fruit-man, would shout his wares, "MacGregor froo-oots — bran-nan-ahs, croak-ranotes, orr-rang-gras, prinapples, MacGregor froo-oots." A snake charmer, for a few annas, would "charm" his cobra by playing a flute. The snake would uncoil out of its basket home and expand its hood. The charmer's mongoose would then attack the poor bedraggled snake and it would gladly retreat to the safety of its basket home.

Or, watch a "medical man" remove a planter's wart from a GI's foot. For a small fee he would suck a wart out using a brass "straw." He would then proudly display "the bloody root" of the wart dangling from the end of the tube. Was it for real? Or fakery? There were ivory carvers and hawkers of gems – star sapphires almost the size of quarters. Were they real? They looked real, but we were afraid it was some kind of scam. Maybe we passed up a good deal.

The tracks were soon repaired and we made our way across India – very long, very hot, very tedious and uneventful. We stopped at every crossroad. Each station had its variety of merchants. We sustained ourselves on "C Rations" and "bran-nan-ahs" from the locals.

From Calcutta we traveled by rail, then by stern-wheel riverboat and again by rail up into the Assam Valley where we flew over the Himalayan Mountains, a route known as the "Hump," into Kunming China. I spent 18 months there, finishing my tour as maintenance chief at the largest overseas radio station in the Army Airways Communication System (AACS).

I started home in late October 1945. Our return ship came near going down in one of the worst Atlantic storms recorded. At the height of the storm, sailing full steam into the wind, we only covered 64 miles in 24 hours. We docked in New York on Christmas Eve at the foot of 50th street. The RCA building loomed in the distance. I received a 12-hour pass from Camp Kilmer and was home for Christmas day. All's well that ends well.

The Encounter

Four years later I did encounter Fred Friendly when I worked the panel show he produced – "Who Said That." Unfortunately I never knew of our near India encounter. We might have worked side by side on that fiery April night in 1944.

And, it was only after Bert Park's death that I learned that he too was a fellow CBler (China Burma India Theater). Bert's "Break the Bank" was another of my early show assignments.

Unlike Fred Friendly, I did not receive a Soldier's Medal. □

Note: Explosion data from "The Peoples Almanac."

Frank Vierling and wife, Lois, live in Oradell, New Jersey where he spends many hours at the computer putting together the **Peacock North** magazine.



CBI Insignia

Christmas Bell

By Hal Alexander

In the late 1960's, the BELL TELEPHONE HOUR was one of the last regularly scheduled live programs still left on the air, and I was privileged to have worked on the series until it went off in 1968.

For nearly a decade, THE BELL TELEPHONE HOUR flourished with some of the finest music and dance to be found anywhere. The show featured performers from the Concert Hall, Grand Opera, Ballet, and the Broadway Musical Stage - a potpourri of musical talent - something for everyone.

Some of the many talented performers appearing on the program while I was associated with it included such names as: Robert Merrill, Ray Bolger, Jane Wyatt, Robert Preston, Issac Stern, Carl Sandberg, Jacques D'Amboise, Richard Tucker, Erik Bruhan, Jan Pierce, Eleanor Powell, Donald O'Connor, Maurice Chevalier, and Harry Belafonte.

It is almost impossible to describe the excitement one feels while working on a live television production. The sheer joy of knowing that what is happening in the studio at that exact moment is being seen by millions of television viewers all over the country.

No record of the BELL TELEPHONE HOUR however would be complete without some mention of the annual Christmas Show. It was by far my favorite program.

However, I'm quite certain that Broadway singing star, John Raitt (Bonnie's father) might understandably feel differently.

The show was live, large, and lavish. It featured a choir of fifty young boys, a ballet team from the New York City Ballet Company, a singing and dancing chorus, plus a dramatic reading of the Nativity. All this, while Donald Voorhees conducted the massive BELL TELEPHONE Orchestra.

The show began simply with a medley of Christmas songs from our singing star, then came the ballet duo with a short excerpt from the Nutcracker Ballet. Next was the boy's choir, followed by the Nativity Scene. All in all, it was a beautiful program, well conceived and handsomely mounted.

The grand finale was to feature the entire company singing a medley of Christmas carols as they hung the final decorations on a huge Christmas tree placed center stage. As the singers were to begin the third chorus of "Silver Bells," John was to enter from off-stage carrying a small wooden stepladder. Timed precisely with the music, he was to climb the ladder and place a large Silver Star on the top of the

tree just as the music built to a thrilling climax. John would then climb back down and join the others in a rousing rendition of "White Christmas."

This final scene had been rehearsed again and again and worked perfectly each time. It would have worked perfectly on the air as well, if only our Broadway star hadn't lost track of the "Silver Bells" choruses. Not content to wait for the third chorus, he made his entrance (ladder and all) at the start of the second one instead.

Now with the stepladder slung across his shoulder, John made his way carefully through the group of singers to the base of the tree. Grasping the star firmly in his hand, he started up the ladder. It was not until he reached the third step that he suddenly realized his tragic mistake.

Instead of the music swelling to that magnificent finish it simply continued on its way toward the third chorus. He arrived at the top of the ladder a full chorus too early.

He was now faced with two choices. He could either sit on top of the ladder holding the star or he could climb back down try to sneak off the stage without being seen.

John of course chose the "sneak off."

Maybe if he closed his eyes and moved very, very slowly, none of the thirty million viewers tuned in that night would even notice him.

Now, with great care, John started down the ladder. The base of the tree was piled high with all sorts of "prop" Christmas presents and as he came off the ladder, he stepped hard on a large gaily-wrapped box. The top gave way as his right foot sank deep into the empty box.

Carefully folding the ladder, he slung it across his shoulder once more and spun around. The back end of the ladder struck the Christmas tree squarely in the middle causing it to list dangerously to one side.

Several of the more muscular singers grabbed hold of the tree in a valiant effort and kept it from toppling over.

Undaunted, our singing star began his slow trek off-stage. (The longest twenty feet he ever walked in his entire life.) Balancing the ladder precariously on his shoulder, he started off. The large ribbon-festooned box clung securely to his foot like a giant snowshoe.

The instant he disappeared from the screen, the orchestra swung into the third and final chorus of "Silver Bells."

Shaking the box loose from his foot, he spun around once more and started back on stage.

A voice in the control-room summed it all up when he announced loudly — "Here he comes again with his goddam ladder." □

Hal lives in Woodland Hills, California

nbc milestones

part three - conclusion

1987

NBC primetime programs earn 140 Emmy nominations, leading other networks for the sixth straight year *Today* goes on the road to the People's Republic of China to report on the cultural treasures of the world's most populous nation.



1988

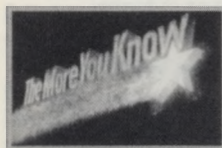
NBC broadcasts the Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, the second time in history that the Games have taken place in Asia. This marks the last time that athletes from the two Germanys would compete as separate countries. Track and field stars Florence Griffith-Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersey set new world records.

1989

The NBC hit sitcom, *Seinfeld*, makes its debut as *The Seinfeld Chronicles*. The program becomes a ratings powerhouse for NBC in the 1994-95 primetime season.



NBC launches CNBC, a business and financial cable TV network, and begins building a portfolio of cable properties.



1990

NBC launches "*The More You Know*" a multiple award-winning public service campaign that has addressed issues such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, violence prevention, peer pressure and sexually transmitted diseases.

1991

NBC News Channel, the NBC affiliate news service, is launched. The service provides video, original reports and customized packages to NBC's over 200 affiliated stations.

1992

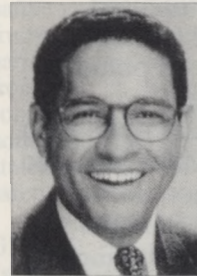
NBC airs the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, where the U.S. basketball Dream Team makes its debut

and gymnast Shannon Miller captures America's first all-around medal at a fully contested Olympics.



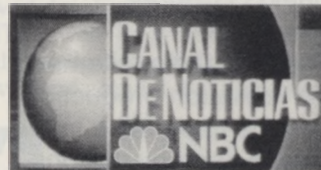
Jay Leno takes over as the new host of *The Tonight Show*. Bryant Gumbel leads *Today* on a journey

to Africa and uncovers many exciting facts about this continent on the move, especially Zimbabwe.



1993

NBC launches Canal de Noticias NBC, a 24-hour Spanish language news service across Latin America. In October 1994 Canal de Noticias NBC debuts on cable stations in the United States.



NBC brands Thursday nights "Must See TV." *Frasier* premieres. *Seinfeld* and *Mad About You* move to Thursday nights.



Conan O'Brien takes over as host of *Late Night* and Greg Kinnear takes over as host of *Later*.

NBC acquires and relaunches NBC Super Channel, the largest general programming television service in Europe, watched in more than 70 million homes.

1994

Blockbuster hits *ER* and *Friends* premiere on Thursday nights. *Saturday Night Live* celebrates its 20th anniversary.

NBC opens its \$15 million "window-on-the-world" studio, creating a new home for *Today* and a signature for NBC News around the world.

NBC launches *America's Talking* a new cable network featuring a diverse roster of innovative talk shows. This



service adds to NBC's growing cable portfolio, bringing NBC into 16 million more US households.

NBC's new series *ER*, *Frasier*, and *Mad About You* capture Peabody Awards, the first triple award for any network in the same year.

1995

Jay Leno surpasses David Letterman in late night ratings war, and NBC recaptures tradition of dominance in late-night programming.

NBC dominates primetime Emmy nominations.

CNBC Asia, a 24-hour in-depth business news service for the Asian continent, makes its debut as the first service to feature programming produced on three continents

NBC and Microsoft announce plans to launch a 24-hour news and information cable network and interactive on-line service, in July 1996.



NBC SuperNet debuts on the Microsoft Network (MSN). The network also launches its World Wide Web site on the Internet at <http://www.nbc.com>

1996

NBC Primetime is #1 in every key category. Two new hit series debut in first quarter *3rd Rock From The Sun* and *Boston Common*.

The network launches two eagerly anticipated services:

NBC in Asia, a general news and information channel in Asia, and CNBC Europe an ideal complement to NBC Super Channel.



The Games of the XXVI Olympiad take place in Atlanta, Georgia. This marks the third straight Summer Olympics telecast for NBC

2000

NBC will broadcast the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

2002

The XIX Olympic Winter games will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. This will mark NBC's first coverage of the Olympic Winter Games since 1972.

2004

NBC will telecast the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad from a site to be determined. It will be NBC's fifth straight Summer Olympics.

2006

The XX Olympic Winter Games will be televised by NBC from a site to be determined.

2008

The Games of the XXIX Olympiad will be held at a location to be determined. For the Sixth consecutive Summer Games, NBC holds the exclusive American television rights. □



Text and pictures for this series came from an NBC promotion brochure.



The Class of 1988 (*Not in seating order*) - Kenneth L. Bauer, Edward Bowers, Julian Finkelstein, Richard Focarile, Thomas Furey, Donald Hannigan, Ronald W. Hitzler, Paul La Penna, Alvin Levine, Donald Luftig, Henry Makrin, James Marshall, Thomas J. Martin, James M. O'Gorman, Jonathan Oakley, John S. Palmer, Elliott Rauner, Stuart M. Rosenberg, Richard Sansevere, Joyce Solimeno, Gordon B. Taylor, Robert Teague, William Theodore, Hildebrand Vieira, V. Paul Vorel, Randolph H. Wands, Richard Watt, Robert Yostpille, and other honored guests.

Frances De Gennaro (front row) sent us this photo. It was her 40th anniversary.

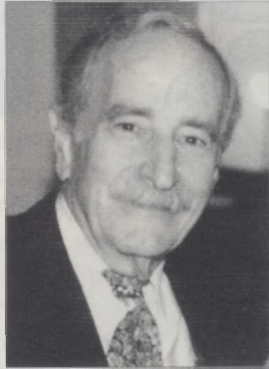


Top Row: Red Donahoe, Murray Vecchio, Jim Sunder, Cory Leible, Sid Chomsky, Burnet Greives, Bill Rose, Arnold Margolis.
 Middle Row: Ed Pendergast, George Neiman, Lee Pliskin, Ray Figelski, Lenny Basile, Cal Shadwell, Jack Bennet, Lou Gerard, Steve Cimino, John O'Connor, Gino Guarna, Jerry Caruso, Bill Tobey.
 Front Row: Roy Silver, Jim O'Gorman, Sam Kirshman, Brian McFarlane, Ted Lindsey, Ann Blumenthal, Scotty Connal, Tim Ryan, Lou DePrete, Ted Nathanson, Peter Connal.

*This 1967 photo came to **PN** from Murray Vecchio via Ted Nathanson.*

PN'S OWN THESPIAN

DURING my long wonderful stay at NBC-TV, thirty years to be exact, I was privileged to work on many marvelous programs and work with and meet many famous and extraordinary people. The programs include four years of CONTINENTAL CLASSROOM, the first NETWORK educational TV program given for credit. FRONTIERS OF FAITH which was religious programming for the Protestant denominations, CATHOLIC HOUR, but unfortunately none of the Jewish programs that were aired by NBC. Thirteen years on the ever-popular TODAY show, NIGHTLY NEWS, politicals, etc.



Marvin Einhorn.

I was the overall Director/Coordinator for the first commercially Satellite aired TODAY show - (Our control room was in the Palace of Justice in Brussels, Belgium. And during this program I was privileged to give the cue, "CUE THE POPE," for our pick-up from the Vatican. I worked with Barbara Walters and Hugh Downs and Jane Pauley, got to meet Noel Coward, Buster Keaton, Sophia Loren, the great nuclear scientist Lise Meitner, and this doesn't begin to describe it all....

So why do I bring all of this up? Well, since I returned to my acting career, I am, as are actors in general, required to give a biography for the program notes - and naturally I write about my work at NBC. And one of the shows I never omit, no matter how limited the space is MEET MR. WIZARD. The reason? I discovered early on that Mr. Wizard WOWS everyone who reads my bio! In fact



Meet Mr. Wizard.

audience members wait around after the show just to meet me because I actually worked on that program and knew Don Herbert.

And Don, I hope you are reading this. If you are, I thank you for making me look good!

Marvin Einhorn

Retired NBC Director turned actor, Marvin, lives in New York City with his wife, Anne.

COLLISION AT SEA



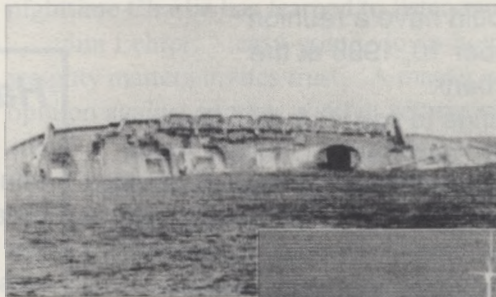
Hal in 1957

AFTER joining NBC in the Spring of 1955, I was assigned to AD duties at 67th St. Master Control. Les Diamond was my boss and I worked nights including sign off for the local station.

One night as the announcer was reading the news summary (for some reason Jazzbo Collins was the sign-off announcer) a news flash came over the news wire: "Andrea Doria collides at sea near Nantucket, Coast Guard on the way." I gave the copy to Al who read it at once. The Italian liner Andrea Doria had collided with the Swedish steam ship Stockholm. More startling news about the condition of the ship followed and I told Al we would stay on the air and cover the developing story. We continued reporting details as they came in over the wire including the sinking and estimated casualties. More than 2 hours later than scheduled, we signed off.

The next day, Les called me at home and said the Station Manager wanted to see me as soon as possible. I arrived convinced that I would be thanked and complimented for my work the previous night. I believe his words were "Gurnee, who the hell do you think you are wasting all that money in over-time payments."

Hal Gurnee



The Stockholm limped back to New York at 8 knots. She lost 5 crew members.

July 25, 1956 - Andrea Doria goes down 11 hours after the collision. 46 passengers lost.



Hal Gurnee is a retired NBC Director/Producer (Jack Paar among many others) living in Sharon, CT. Hal is still busy producing TV shows.



NBCFR



Up here in the North we have to be satisfied with a picture and a short message from Harry Katzman to get some flavor of the NBC Florida Retiree Group's 14th annual luncheon. This year's bash was held March 19-20 at the Clarion Hotel in Orlando Florida. Via e-mail, Harry writes:

Hi guys & Gals:

I attended the 14th annual retiree luncheon yesterday at the Clarion Hotel in Orlando. Not too many people there this time; only 57 people attended. It was nice to see and greet old friends. I was especially pleased to see and greet old friend Fred Wagner, my old boss – back in my early radio days in North Carolina.

It was announced that the Burbank group would have a reunion luncheon on October 10, 1998 at the Holiday Inn in Burbank.

Special greetings to you, Bob and Diane Juncosa, from Jerry and Nancy Cudlipp. Frank Merklein also told me to greet his friends via this e-mail route; especially hello to Scotty and Bob J. He now lives part time in Del Ray Beach, FL. Many stories and experiences were related – especially about the good old days at 106th street, etc, etc.

Greetings and salutations to all of you: Tambo, we missed you; hope Dorothy feels better, same for you, Howie Atlas and Ruth. Hope Ruth is making a speedy recovery also.

Hopefully we will have a bigger and better reunion next year.

Harry



*Jerry & Nancy Cudlipp, Marjorie Shields, the Browns: Dorothy and Leroy.
Thanks, Marjorie, for sharing this picture with us.*

Harry updates NBCFR status:

At the NBCFR luncheon in March, Walt Vetter announced his resignation as President. In April an organizational meeting was held and it was decided that the NBCFR group should be continued. Another meeting was scheduled for early June.

At the June meeting it was decided that a 5-member committee would run group. It was also decided that the usual yearly reunion would be held next spring. Also, mini lunches will be held at least 4 times a year and the quarterly newsletter would be resumed shortly.

Any questions may be addressed to me, Harry Katzman, 7482 Falls Road West, Boynton Beach, FL 33437. Tel: 1-561 735-3771; e-mail: harryk@digital.net

Harry

DIE YOUNG, BUT AS LATE AS POSSIBLE

By Dan Gabel

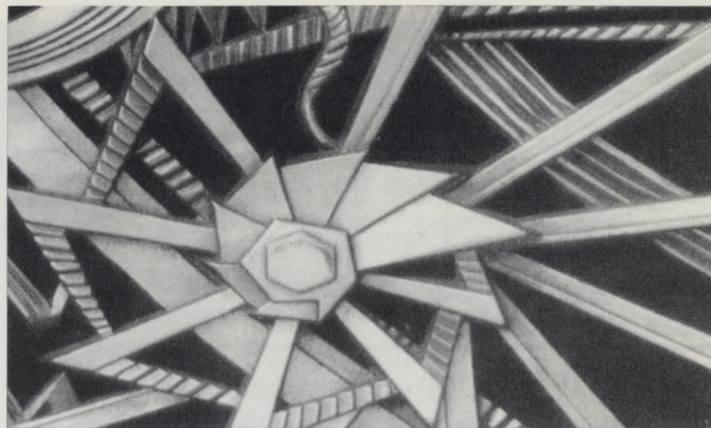
(rewritten from NYTimes health column)

Thanks to the MacArthur Foundation, 16 research scientists, and authors Dr. John Rowe and Robert Kahn, we now know a lot more about the aging process. They've put their work into a tome titled "Successful Aging." The research involved men and women past 70 who live in a normal environment – outside hospitals and nursing homes, where only 5.2 percent reside

Here in a nutshell are some of the conclusions:

- ☞ Most older Americans are in reasonably good health, generally doing well.
- ☞ Many have arthritis, blood pressure problems, and heart disease, but these have not impaired a full life: 90 percent aged 65 – 74 report no disability, and even after 80, 40 percent are fully functional
- ☞ Between ages 65 and 100, only 10 percent suffer from Alzheimer's and through the late 80s half showed no mental decline....in fact, the aged brain has a remarkable and enduring capacity to make new connections, master the computer and e-mail...and with training, even short-term memory loss can be overcome
- ☞ They advise oldsters to consume more calcium, and vitamins D, B, B-6 and E...and exercise!
- ☞ It is not true that genes overwhelmingly determine health and life span, only 30 percent of aging characteristics are hereditary, and after age 80 genetics has no influence at all
- ☞ Chronological age is not a critical factor in sexual activity, more important are cultural norms, health and availability of partners
- ☞ Finally, the goal to strive for is the one established for humanity by the ancient Greeks – to die young, as late in life as possible! □

How would you know if there was a misspelled word in the dictionary?



THE TALKING HEADS

By Dan Gabel

(Editors note: re-written from NYTimes)

Times writer Walter Goodman took an analytical look at the famous tv personalities who interview important guests on their talk shows and described them with the precision of a necrologist down at the morgue.

Koppel, King, Lehrer, Rose, Donaldson, Russert – they all went under the scalpel and you'll probably agree Goodman painted accurate pictures.

Ted Koppel: "distinguished by his know-it-all air. He winks at this audience as he dares his eminent guests to outwit him."

Larry King: "Glad-hander...streetwise....Depth is not Mr. King's strong suit...he plays to limited attention spans."

Charlie Rose: "...a born courtier...avoids contentiousness...Over the years, it seems to me, our nighttime Charlie has learned to listen more and fawn less."

Jim Lehrer: "...easy-going, down-home approach to weighty matters invites trust....A master of playing off one opinion against another without setting anybody's teeth on edge."

George Will: "...has the excuse of a well-stocked mind, an acquaintance with American history (which his colleagues lack)."

Sam Donaldson: "His theme -- 'I'm Forever Playing Gotcha'...carried away by his ratings and self-regard...seems to be trying out for "The Sam Donaldson Hour," where he could exclusively interview himself."

Bob Schieffer: "...he does not operate under the assumption that he is more interesting or important than his guests."

Tim Russert: "...vigorous in his pursuit of a tricky prey. He can be as tough as Mr. Donaldson but is more engaging." □



Veteran Newscaster Retires

Three Parties and You're Out

Floyd Kalber Retires After Half Century on the Mike

By Russ Tornabene

Floyd Kalber retired from broadcasting on March 1st, ending the longest continuous assignment as a reporter and anchorman among the NBC News family. He started newscasting in Nebraska in the last '40s, reporting for the network in the mid-50s from Omaha, then joined WMAQ-tv, Chicago, in 1960 as news anchor.

As anchorman for more than a dozen years he attained the highest share of audience in the market on his late evening news (10pm), with 55 shares Monday through Friday.

Later, Kalber was partnered with a young woman from Indianapolis, who left after a year to become a member of the Today Show staff where she remained for more than 15 years. Her name: Jane Pauley. Floyd followed her in the 70s to Today as the show's news reader.

(1970's picture, above, when Floyd joined the TOADY show.)

A dozen years ago he was enticed to return to Chicago news anchoring through another NBC connection — Dennis Swanson, who had once written sports for Kalber before (Dennis) started his own skyrocketing career in tv at ABC and NBC. After getting reestablished in Chicago, Kalber became ratings leader again and remained at the top of that time period until his final goodbye.

Kalber left public life with three send-offs from friends, colleagues, and competitors. The first party was composed of former NBC staffers and was arranged by this writer and Dillon Smith, who was a news producer and director of programming at WMAQ.

On January 15th we brought together 68 of "Floyd's Friends," in a surprise event, including 20 from "out of town," including Bob Mulholland, former NBC news president, Les Crystal, another ex-president and now Exec. Producer of the Jim Lehrer News Hour on PBS, John Palmer, White House correspondent, Dick Fischer and Joe Angotti, former executive vice-presidents of NBC News,

Tom Verdi, veteran director based in Washington, Carole Simpson, formerly NBC and now ABC-tv News anchor/reporter, Ed Planer, one-time WMAQ-tv News Director, Today Show executive, and later VP of network news coverage, Dennis Swanson, once head of ABC-tv sports, now President of WNBC-tv, New York, and five of Floyd's former colleagues from KMTV-Omaha where he started his news career after being mustered out of the Marine Corps in the late '40s. Almost all had once worked in Chicago.

Also on hand were Betty Kalber, Floyd's wife of five decades, son Mitch, a professional cameraman based in Hawaii, who shoots news and network golf tourneys, and daughter Kathy.

Greetings were received from Julian Goodman, Reuven Frank, Jim Cummins (now NBC News, Dallas), Frank Bourgholtzer, Frank Jordan, Rod Prince (now Nightly News, New York), Wally Pfister, Jane Pauley and other former colleagues.

The essence of those greetings was summed up by one dinner guest who said, "It was energizing to remember what a great and proud time that was, and what a talented bunch of people were assembled. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be at the dinner will feed off of it for a long time."

The next day, Kalber was honored with a luncheon hosted by the local chapter of the Academy of TV Arts & Sciences, with about 140 of Chicago's tv community attending.

Finally, the week before he retired, Kalber was given a party by his current WLS-tv colleagues.

Floyd told those groups that he felt it was time to retire, time to turn over the daily anchor chair to younger people. His final thought — different standards existed through most of his 50-plus years in front of the camera, standards that served the audience well while he informed them about their world.

Floyd and Betty began his retirement with a trip to Hawaii. □

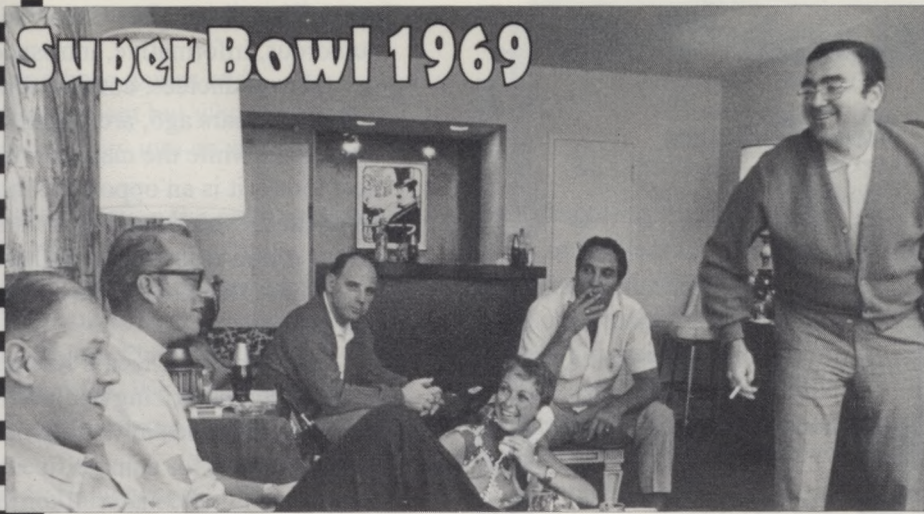


Floyd at KMTV, Omaha, in early 1950's.

Russ Tornabene writes to us from Evinston, Illinois. While at NBC, NY, he was Vice President, Public Affairs, NBC News.

We Got Pictures

Super Bowl 1969



From the left:
Elmer
Angsman,
Charlie Jones,
Scotty Connal,
Lou Kusserow,
Chet Simmons

Courtesy,
Ginny Seipt.



Barbie
Armstrong,
Bob Clayton,
Hugh Downs,
"Concentration"

Courtesy, Norm Blumenthal



Ted Nathenson,
Norm Blumenthal,
"Concentration"

Courtesy, Norm Blumenthal

New
Amsterdam
Roof
Theater
Circa 1950's

From the left:

Rudy Rudick,
Lighting Director

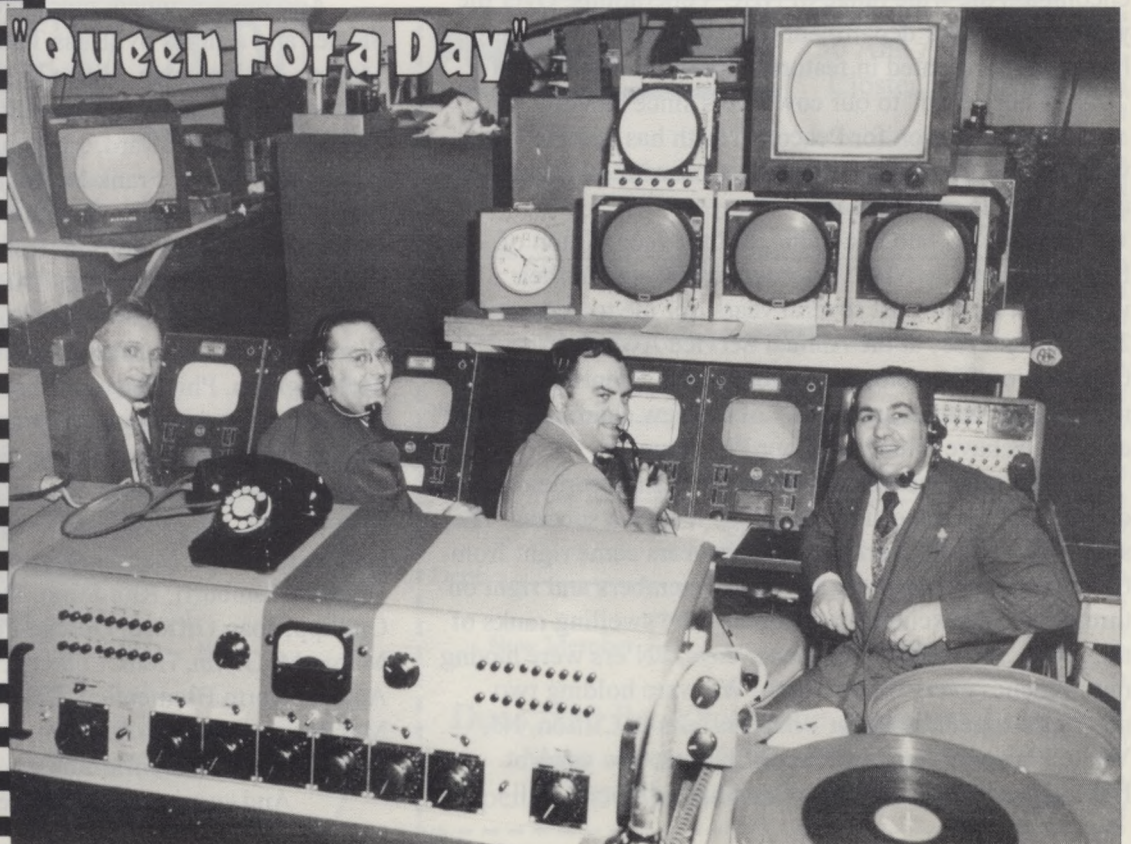
Jim McCullough,
Video Control

Fidelis Blunk,
Technical Director

Sal Piscotta,
Audio Engineer

Courtesy,
Jim McCullough.

"Queen For a Day"



A Message From

Pete Peterson



Our luncheon get-together on May 17th was the best to date. It was a real pleasure to enjoy the company of so many who shared their working years together at NBC. Once again it has been a good time for the members of PEACOCK NORTH. The details, stories and pictures tell it all throughout this edition.

The last few years have been especially fun as the interest in the close communication of the membership grew, especially at the Mini Lunches at PiccoLissimo in Ft. Lee, NJ, and at the annual luncheons at LaMaganette in New York.

Looking back at our own history it has been an interesting story. From a relatively small group formed some eleven years ago, our membership has grown considerably. It reached its zenith just recently as our roster topped the 800 mark. There have been many voluntary contributors to our group over the years who should be recognized for their time, devotion and dedicated service.

Within our newsletter pages have been articles that encompass the wide range of NBC's operations. Over the years every major department of Radio and TV Operations has been represented in feature stories and accounts of "what's happened" to our coworkers since leaving NBC.

The motivation for Peacock North has been to keep workers and friends in communication with one another in a comfortable environment.

It was a bit late in coming, but the recognition of Peacock North by NBC, has been manifested in their invitation, for the past several years, for me to address the 25-year honorees at the Annual Service Awards Ceremonies. The company is generating a continuing relationship with us, and many of the new cadre of 25-year employees have joined with our PN group.

As to our organization, there are many people over our eleven-year existence that has made it such a success. The support to make it work in the early years came right from the encouragement of the 30 charter members and right on through to the excitement created by the swelling ranks of the group. At one point in earlier days, PN'ers were having mini lunches every other month. We were holding two major get-togethers a year --maxi-affairs in Clifton, NJ, White Plains, NY and ultimately the past few years at LaMaganette in NY. These events have all been well

attended, and our guest speakers have been generous, humorous, informative, introspective and educational.

New inductees, coming at a slower rate as compared to just a few years ago, are augmenting our natural attrition. Therefore, while the majority of long-time members are still here today, it is an opportune moment to give recognition to all of those who helped make it a little more palatable to discover and enjoy the so called "Golden Years."

Those that have done exceptional work are in the list that follows:

Ken Arber for Ken's Korner, Heino Ripp for his original computerizing and writing of our early newsletters and now continues in writing the "PN People" column. Frank Vierling for a magnificent job, assembling and computerizing the material for the printers and by adding dimension artwork, and expertise to our slick publication. Dan Grabel and Roy Silver for all the news that fills Dan's "at 30 rock" column. Dick Dudley for a look at the past in Radio and TV — star-studded stories and remembrances, lots of great humor -- Dudley style! Mort Hochstein's memories and backstage BIOS's and reflections and jibing on today's technology as it befuddles our generation. Hal Alexander's hilarious stories and anecdotes on day-to-day NBC shows and events. Don and Sandy Luftig's travels — interesting travelogues with pictures to make them come alive.

Special thanks to Don Gogarty for his expertise and direction in the printing process that brings us a slick magazine.

And there is much, much more — Memory Lane Stories and articles by: Russ Tornabene, Ray Weiss, Perry Massey, Ed Newman, Vince DiPietro, Ralph Dichter, Scotty Connal, Howard Atlas, Frank O'Keefe, Bob Asman, Ted Seiter, Bill Howard, Jim Smart, Mort Aronoff, Doc Potter, Gary Iorio, Frank DeRienzo, Ann Kramer, Enid Roth, Stu MacGregory, Rosemary McPhillips, Ray Scherer, Grant Tinker, Herb Gordon, Bob Juncosa, Bill Klages, Vic Roby, Larry Lockwood, Ray DiPrima, Ray Lockhart, Rick Caro, Don Meaney, Jack Van Buskirk, Cal Shadwell, John Ward, Lee Carlton, Gene Hamilton, Wayne Howell, Lillian McNaughton, Phil Falcone, Guy LeBow, Herb Oxman, Bill McCord, Clay Ackerson, Reuven Frank, Gloria Clyne, Marian Eiscamp, Dick Schaap, Frank Merklein, Chet Hagen, Johnny Andrews, Roger Tuttle, Marie Finnegan, Jack Coffey, James Holton, Gregg Garrison, Andy Hammerschmidt, Marcia Kuyper Schneider, Beryl Pfizer, Orlando Tamburri, Rita Stipo, Dolores Parylak, Jerry Cudlipp, Joan Gifford, George Peters, Alida Mesrop, Marge McGlynn, Hank Folkerts, Bill Miller, Ronnie Adams, Norm Blumenthal, Linda Ellerbee, Muriel MacPherson, Marvin Einhorn, Hal Gurnee, Ted Nathanson, Harry Coyle.... Ad infinitum...

And special thanks to the many speakers at our

Annual Luncheon Events, too numerous to mention; they were and are the best!

There are countless others whose names and contributions escape me for the moment but who too have made the idea of a fraternal community into an enjoyable reality.

It is appropriate that we also mention the great work of our counterpart in Florida, the NBCFR group. Their leaderships, beginning with Lee Carlton then carried forward by Walt Vetter, and their staffs were a cooperative group that kept an affiliation with our PN group for the common benefit of both memberships. We wish the new NBCFR committee success as they undergo their reorganization.

And thanks too to Radio and Television for the grand scheme that made communications fun and profitable and RCA's formation of NBC as the vehicle that brought us all together. And now thanks to GE for continuing down the road we PNers pioneered.

Happy Summer Vacations,

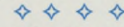
Regards, *Pete*

P.S. We plan to have a PiccoLissimo Mini-Lunch in September. Postcard announcement will be sent when the date is firmed up.

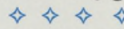
P.P.S. We depend on YOU to keep us informed about what you are doing in retirement, and send along your anecdotes and pictures of your working days at 30 Rock.

Peacock North Staff

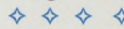
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Gloria Clyne Mort Hochstein
Jerry Cudlipp Tony Nelle
Dick Dudley Dolores Parylak
Roy Silver



*And a special thanks to
Peg Peterson and Lois Vierling*

NEW MEMBERS



- Boory, Diana - Chicago, IL
- Brown, Walter - Yero Beach, FL
- Clark, Elizabeth - Bronx, NY
- Corcoran, Charles - Southbury, CT
- Couture, Jean - Chicago, IL
- Dudnick, Herbert - Margate, NJ
- Gafa, Joseph E. - Meadow, NY
- Gardiner, Herbert - Pawley's Island, SC
- Iwatiw, Shirley - Portage, WI
- Kane, Thomas - Conover, NC
- Miller, Jay - New Rochelle, NY
- Moore, Charles - Putnam Valley, NY
- Satz, Rita - New York, NY
- Skidmore, Laura - Homewood, IL
- Smith, Alan - New Rochelle, NY
- Welch, Jack - Fairfield, CT (*Hon. Mem.*)

Peacock North

30 Ann Arbor Place
Closter, NJ 07624

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

At NBC from _____ 'til _____

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New Member Renewal

Dues: \$20 Per Year - due January 1, 1998

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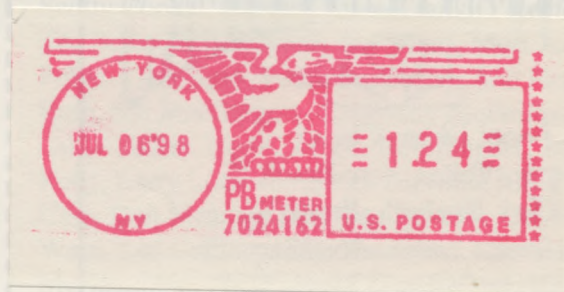
Open to NBC Employees with 25 Years or more.

A PICTURE FROM OUR ARCHIVES



King and Queen — Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald.

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