

March Newsletter

Broadcast PIONEERS

March 2003

Volume 7

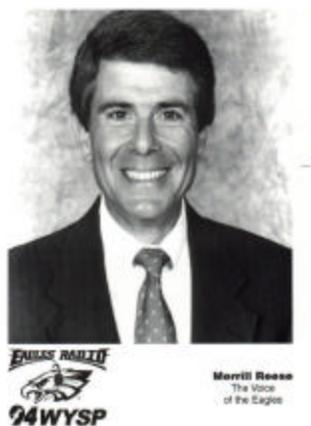
**March Meeting
Bala Golf Club
March 19, 2003**

**Reception 12:00 noon
Lunch 12:30 pm
Ratecard \$18 Members / \$20 Non-members
Phone 610-436-4217**

Spring will come this month, we certainly hope. Lord, what a winter! Relief will come at a get-together of your friends and associates at Broadcast Pioneers returning to Bala Golf Club on March 19, the third Wednesday of the month. Here again, note well: BALA GOLF CLUB IS WHERE WE WILL MEET.

You don't want to miss this one. **Merrill Reese**, who has been the "Voice of the

Philadelphia Eagles" for 26 years, and Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the Year, will be our speaker. He is in the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, Temple University Communications Hall, and Overbrook High School Hall of Fame. His autobiography, "It's Good", is a best seller. Be there. Phone 610-436-4217 to make reservations, or e-mail morris-sam6@aol.com. We have to know you will be there to be able to set up. **PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL NOW.**



Happenings

For the first time in the memory of many Broadcast Pioneers the February meeting was canceled because of snow. Never happened before! We will surely have **Ray Murray** and his partners in Banyan Productions do a program for a meeting in the near future.

What a month this has been for **Ed Hurst**! The legendary disc jockey has celebrated 60 years on the air in the Philadelphia area. The Pioneers' Hall of Fame, Person of the Year member has been celebrated by Anna Verna, President of City Council with a Plaque recog-

nizing his feat. The awards that he's won are too numerous to mention. He began his saga in 1943 as a 16 year old disc jockey on WFPG in Atlantic City. In 1946 he began the 950 Club on WPEN with partner, Joe Grady. Ed has worked on all of the network stations in Philadelphia. He's still on the air, of course, on WPEN. We've got a feeling he'll do it all over again in ten years. Congratulations to Ed Hurst, a true Pioneer.

Frank Hogan, Pioneers Vice President and General Manager of WGLS, Rowan University Radio, has an-

nounced the second annual symposium for area college students, sponsored by Philadelphia Broadcast Pioneers. Among those appearing will be Bill Webber, President of the Pioneers, and Marc Howard, anchor of the CBS 3 11 PM News. The symposium will take place on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am to 1 pm. For complete details of the speakers and the events on that date at Channel 3, check our website, www.broadcastpioneers.com It's also a good place to check for any late breaking news on Pioneers in Philadelphia.

Inside this issue:

More Happenings	2
And More	2
And...	2

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBER:

There will be a Board Meeting at Bala Golf Club at 10:30 am before the March 19th meeting. All Board members are encouraged to attend

"My problem lies in reconciling my gross habits with my net income."

Errol Flynn

Please don't forget to send items for the newsletter to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, call 1-302-645-8910, e-mail nanort@aol.com or call first then fax to 1-302-645-8910.

More Happenings

After all these years of marriage and a wonderful family, sportscaster **Bill Campbell** has announced “there is a new woman in my life.” Can you believe? Erin Bridget, his great granddaughter, has taken his heart. In springtime these things happen.

For those who may have wondered, and many have, **Gene Vassall** is alive and well at 80 years old, and working every day. The account executive and advertising agency head disappeared some years ago under ‘controversial’ circumstances, but appeared at the

And More

Joe Earley is writing a novel. It is loosely based on his parents who came to this country in 1900 from Ireland and met and married here. Joe is famous for writing scripts and creating characters (he was Mr. Rivets). Joe has been having knee problems, and problems with myasthenia gravis which appear to be under control, but a friend has told him that the fact that he can’t walk is God’s way of saying he should work on his novel. Joe was a winner of AFTRA’s Bill Evan’s Award to his great surprise and delight. Wife **Kathy Taras Earley** was in cahoots with the union which produced a 45 minute presentation of Joe’s career, narrated by Nat Wright. Among his many other accomplishments, Joe is remembered for his appearance on Phil Donahue as Teddy

And.....

Pioneers member and regular at our meetings, **George Finkel**, has been looking to buy property near North Myrtle Beach to build a home in the near future. The recent snow that we’ve had has caused him to speed up his search. George already has a property near Bradenton, FL that is wooded, with a pond, that he’d be willing to sell to any interested member. George has three Emmy’s earned producing and directing World Series, Basketball Final Fours, and Bowl Games over many

WFIL reunion. He is the Gene of old, he says his problems have been worked out. We can only say great. Godspeed.

Good news regarding former Pioneers Treasurer **Fred Bell**, Since a fall from the second step of a ladder a year ago, Fred has been in and out of consciousness. He has now taken four steps on his own, and his recall gains a little momentum every now and then. Thanks to Suzy Holcomb and Charlie Higgins for the update on Fred. Fred was in Master Control at WPVI and WFIL.

Roosevelt.

Marilyn Phister is still producing at WPVI-TV. Now more lovely and more svelte than ever, Phister produces Sunday—Live with Wally Kennedy, and the Inside Story show that Wally does on Sundays. She is also responsible for specials like the auto show, and the home show. Her former co-producers for the daily Philadelphia Live program, Amy Buckman and Karen Rogers are reporting for Action News.

In case you hadn’t noticed, **Larry Kane**, the Pioneers’ Person of the Year, is now at CN 8 News as a consultant on the channel’s planned expansion from 10 to 25 hours a week.

Paul Norton has been elected president of the MOAA (Military Officers

years for NBC. George still feels that he should have gotten one for the 1986 World Series that the Red Sox blew.

Jack Hyland, the Pioneer who writes the profiles of our members for the Hall of Fame night awards banquet, continues to be involved as Vice President for Public Affairs for the Battle of the Bulge organization. Jack is involved in pre-planning for the 60th anniversary of the Battle where he became an Infantry Platoon Sergeant. He also works as a volunteer at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital.

In the same vein, member Bud Galow says that former WRCV DJ Perry Andrews has fallen and has also become incapable of even simple communication.

If you’ve missed **Dave Roberts**, former Pioneers Person of the Year and Channel 6 weatherman, be assured that Dave is delighted by the fact that he no longer does the 11 pm show. Still doing the early shows for Action News Dave says he gets home earlier and leads a more normal life than before.

Association of America), Southern Delaware Chapter. Apparently he didn’t show up for a meeting when the election was held. He and his wife Nancy have decided to take a couple of weeks off and get some sun in Florida.

Lydia DeGuio has sent along information on **Ellie Faragalli** who attends many of our meetings with member **Jean Goman**. Ellie, who is now retired near Philadelphia, began at WFIL in 1955 as assistant to John Harlan, CFO. Ellie joined Group W from 1973 to 1982 and moved to Santa Monica, CA. She was the right hand gal to Mike Douglas, meeting the stars and coordinating the shows. When she left there, she went to Disney in Media Relations, Program Development and did trade shows all over the country.

“Son looks to me like you’re spending too much time on one subject.”

Sam Metcalf, Coach, Texas A&M Basketball, to a student who got 4 F’s and a D.