

October Newsletter

Broadcast **PIONEERS**

October 2001

Issue 2

October Meeting

**Bala Golf Club
October 17, 2001**

All of a sudden it's fall, and time for another big station salute. This year we'll salute Channel 10 with so many of their heavy hitters on deck that you'll wonder who's watching the store. **Dennis Bianchi**, the station's General Manager, **Steve Schwaid**, News Director, **Joe Collins**, Sales Manager, and **Lawana Scales**, Program Executive, will be with us.

Herb Clarke, past President and Person of the Year for the Pioneers, and Channel 10's long-time weatherman, will be the emcee of the meeting's

program. They will discuss the varied challenges, issues and everyday tasks that must be addressed at a leading TV station.



**Herb Clarke to Emcee
October Meeting**

Reception 12:00 noon
Lunch 12:30 p.m.
Ratecard \$18.00 (NEW)
Phone 215-563-1310 or 856-365-5600

Please Note: **The price has gone up for the luncheon. It is now \$18 for members and \$20 for non-members.** This is only a dollar above the club's cost for the meal and represents our expenses for the meeting. October 17 at Bala, program at 1:15 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

There will be a 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting at Bala prior to the luncheon.

All board members are urged to attend.

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Meetings

The meeting in September was one of the best attended the club has had in years. **Bill Wright Sr.**, his handsome clan, and a ton of friends of he and **Hy Lit** were there. Good to see **Thacher Longstreth**, 82 year-old Philadelphia City Councilman, who always seems to find time for such occasions. It was a lot of fun with a video greeting by **Dick Clark**, and audio "right on" by good guy **Joe Niagara**, who is not very well right now. He was missed. **Ed Harvey**, who emceed the meeting, said he hadn't seen so much talent in one place since

he got stuck in a hall of mirrors. Hy and Bill shared stories of the great days when their shows at WIBG dominated the market. Hy had 75% of the audience on Sunday nights. At the end, everyone sang "God Bless America." You had to be there. It was great.

The regular meeting was preceded by a board meeting with a strong representation of board members present. A number of plans were discussed for initiatives to give life to the educational community from the ex-

perience of the Pioneers. You'll be hearing about it soon. We need new members and **Dorie Lenz** was selected to head an initiative to see to it that we get them. Also, there will be better scholarships as time goes along but no firm plans are ready for announcement right now.

Don't forget our big meeting of the year is coming up on November 17. You should have your invitations by now. We will be honoring our Persons of the Year—**Captain**

"Living with a conscience is like driving a car with the brakes on."

Budd Shulberg

and **Mrs. Noah (Carter and Pat Merbreier)** and our Hall of Fame: **Pat Delsi, Neil Harvey, Sid Mark and Paul Norton.** It's a dinner, of course, and will be at the Bala Golf Club, 6 pm reception, 7 pm dinner. Call 215-563-1310 for reservations. The dinner is \$60 for members and \$80 for non-members.

"Isn't there any other part of the matzo you can eat?"

Marilyn Monroe, on being served matzo ball soup 3 meals in a row.

Happenings

Perhaps you saw in the paper in mid-September that member **Andy Musser**, Phillies Announcer, is planning to retire. He gets the ultimate tribute from the team's senior announcer, **Harry Kalas**, who said of him, "He's been a joy to work with. I've always been very comfortable with him. He's like a member of the family." seems a little young at 63, but he's been with the Phillies since 1976, and the road schedule is a bear, people who have been that route testify. He didn't want to end up like **Richie Ashburn** who, September 1997, died of a heart attack, alone, in a New York hotel room. He says he'll have no regrets once he quits baseball. "When I get home that night," he said, "I'll be fine."

More Happenings

In September, **John Brown** celebrated a number of major anniversaries in his life, including 22 years as a traffic reporter in Philly. No one has done it longer. He will also celebrate 32 years in radio in September. But most of all are the 22 years he's had with his long suffering wife Donna. He says he's glad that he finally got his degree in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University, and he hopes soon to get a call from NOAA for a hurricane hunter ride. He's trying to keep up with **Irv Homer** at the Sunshine Foundation, and, born with CP himself, he is active with the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, showing that people with CP can lead productive and successful lives.

Inside Story Headline

Paul Sullivan, Jr., son of the late WIP newscaster, e-mailed his pleasant surprise at finding his dad's name among those on our web page. Paul Sr. died in 1988, and his son points out that he worked for Ed Murrow briefly, but Murrow could never remember his name and introduced him with the line "here is a voice you will remember." Dad didn't think highly of Murrow, Paul Jr. adds. The son lives in Fresno, CA.

Gerry Wilkinson points out that he will,

Although he's had more than his share of problems lately, **Jerry Donohue** sounds as chipper as ever if you talk to him. Two years ago he went blind and went to Wills Hospital where he was diagnosed as having Glaucoma. His vision was gone and he was shaky on his feet. The vision is partially back, a little foggy, he says. Recently, he has had surgery for brain cancer, and they think they got all of it. He is now undergoing chemo and radiation therapy. In addition to this, Fran, his wife, whom he met when both worked at WFIL, has been ill. He will soon have to have her cared for at a total care facility, a move which he really hates to take. The veteran WFIL and Philadelphia Eagles radio producer still sounds as though he'd love to get back and

Dan Terhanian made the last Pioneer's meeting. He is known as manager of the Armenian Hour program heard for many years on WDAS, WTEL and other stations in its over 20 year existence. Now retired from his food market at Washington Lane and Wayne Avenue, Dan joins us for as many meetings as he can.

Frank Kastner is one of those guys it's always nice to get into a conversation with. He's been in radio on and off since 1942 when he volunteered for the army and they told him he probably would die young because of his bad heart. The doctor who told him that is dead but Frank is working seven days a week doing the all night show at WPEN. Now 79, he loves it. He'd have

perhaps, be adding bios to our Broadcast Pioneers web page at some point and interested members may send them to him by e-mail at pioneers2broadcastpioneers.com.

Greet new members: **Ruth A. Sliwinski**, owner of the Meredith Agency, PR, Wynnewood Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096, **Chuck Gagliardi** of Comcast in Philadelphia, and **Michael Davis** of New York Communications in Upper Darby, PA.

do a little production.

Jane Norman, perhaps better known as Pixanne on her award winning television show, is now putting out her second CD for adults. Songs from the CD, "Madly in Love," will be featured in a one-night-only event at The Bellevue on Sunday, November 4. The 7 pm dinner show in the Founders Room will feature such songs as, "I've Got a Crush on You," "When I Fall in Love," and "Ev'ry Time We Say Good-bye." Jane will be accompanied by a six piece ensemble of world class musicians. Jane is a long-time Pioneers member and for this limited seating reservations-only event call the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue at 215-790-2814.

been at our last meeting, but there was a concert at the Academy of Music that night, and if he went to lunch, he'd have slept through the concert. He worked at WFLN for many years and loves classical music stations but had an argument with management once and not only was fired but was blackballed in the business, he says, so he did other stuff for 17 years. Frank still sounds great.

Claire McMullen who is retired from the Farm Journal Book Division is packing for a move to Berwyn. The former producer for Channel 6 is remembered for her work on "This Week in Philadelphia" in the 50's and "Within our Gates" during the same period. Once moved she hopes to be joining us for meetings

Lyda DeGuio made a contribution to the Independence Seaport Museum of artifacts gathered while on a cruise as a passenger on the U.S.S. United States in 1953. The U.S. will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2002. Lydia says it is the largest and fastest ship in the world and is presently docked in Philadelphia

Please send items for the newsletter to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, e-mail Paul at nanort@aol.com, or phone 1-302-645-8910.