

Broadcast PIONEERS

of Philadelphia

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NEWSLETTER November 1997



Ooops! We hope that you caught it, but the date for the Hall of Fame/Person of the Year banquet is.....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Please note!!! And please make your reservations early so that we can plan this biggest fund-raiser of the Philadelphia PIONEERS year. Again, the funds raised go to supporting deserving students studying broadcasting. Your attendance helps.

We want to introduce you to a couple of people who have become new members of the PIONEERS, who attended the Channel 6 50th Anniversary luncheon. Their faces may have been faintly familiar, but both have been away for many years (30 or more) and memory dims.

- **Mel Kampmann** was the first news director to implement the Action News format on Channel 6. He left the station to go to North Dakota and then founded his own consulting organization – International Communications Group, Ltd. in Vienna, VA.
- **Paul Parker** was the host of a feature on WFIL Radio called Question Mike. He had free reign to address such subjects as might appear to him to be most important on any

particular day. At times, he flew from Wings Field in a plane provided by Cessna to ask questions not just in the Delaware Valley but all over the country. When he left the station in 1961 he worked for ABC, at the UN, and at WINS-Newsradio in New York. He's been fully retired since 1992 and has his residence in Monmouth County. He keeps a boat on the Chesapeake and makes frequent trips to Atlantic City.

As time goes along, we will profile various other of the 32 new members that have been gained, with more coming in. If there is someone that should be contacted who might be interested in becoming a member, notify VP Pat Delsi who is overseeing the new member committee.

Alan Tripp is heading a committee with the ambitious goal of improving broadcast quality. Pursuant to this, he and the committee that includes Alan, Neil Harvey, Herb Clarke, Dori Lenz, and President Shelly Gross, will meet soon with Mayor Rendell's Press Secretary, Kevin Feeley. They will investigate establishing the Billy Penn Awards, which will endeavor to facilitate broader coverage of the local news scene. The objective will be to show that there are many good things happening in Philadelphia and to award stations and individuals that have done outstanding work in showing the many dimensions of the Delaware Valley scene.

Many, many people have been asking about Larry Ferrari. Larry is gravely ill. But, as this is written, he has taken a turn for the better, and has had several very good days. He thanks everyone who has sent cards and letters. The bouquet that the PIONEERS sent was very beautiful and lifted his spirits. Perhaps all of the prayers of PIONEERS members and others who love Larry have led to the turn-around he is enjoying. Keep praying.

If you have been missing Taylor Grant at meetings lately.....so have a lot of us. Taylor has not had a good year. Cataract surgery in May was followed by two strokes – rehabilitation and the inability to drive himself anywhere. Taylor says he has the urge to do all kinds of things. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. He hopes his writer's block will soon evaporate and he will do some writing soon.

As you read this, Ed and Cissie Hurst will be on safari in Kenya. Club member Bob Dorne joined them, along with 41 others who responded to the WPEN and Philadelphia Zoo promotion. On the completion of the safari, they will stop in Brussels, Belgium and then home. Bob Dorne will take a side trip to Amsterdam, Holland.



Ed Harvey has returned from his Odyssey aboard a train. He loved it, but Marj felt there was a pea under her mattress, or perhaps it was the rattle of the train (that rattled her?).



In any event, he returns to his duties as Program Chairman and is working on the

- ◆ December meeting which will salute broadcast engineers, and will be emceed by Irv Ross.
- ◆ In January, plans are for WCAU General Manager, Pat Wallace, to speak after the lunch at the Adams Mark, and then lead a tour of the Channel 10 facilities on City Line Avenue.
- ◆ In February, a panel is planned to discuss changes in radio, subsequent to the change in FCC regulations regarding multi-station ownership.

These are projected meetings and may be altered subject to the schedules of the individuals involved.

Tom Monaghan, former WFIL radio account executive and now providing the same service to WUSL-FM, has pointed out that he plans to become a member of our group (Pat Delsi please note). He is organizing a WFIL Radio 75th Anniversary get-together at the Adams Mark on December 5 where there will be a buffet from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. Cash Bar – drinks \$2.50. To attend, contact Tom at WUSL – 215-483-8900.

The Carter Merbriers, Pat and Captain Noah, have returned from a trip to Scotland. Carter was doing research on the distillation and consumption of scotch whiskey. Or at least he says that's what he was doing. He then saw his daughter, her husband and children, in London. Carter is working on a new book about the police, which he served as Chaplain in a previous life. His previous book was a primer on television production for children.



Tom Moran continues with his morning show on WRDR at the Jersey shore. In addition he has indulged a lifetime passion for railroads by becoming a conductor on the Cape May Seashore Lines Railroad. He says he is having the time of his life.

Kal Rudman recorded, as a labor of love, commercials for Lynn Abraham in her heated campaign for District Attorney, as her husband Frank Ford cheered on the sidelines.

A personal note...I'm off to Naperville, Illinois to celebrate the arrival of my second grandson, Robert Joseph "Robby" Norton, to son Michael and wife, Joy.



Please don't forget to send items for the Newsletter to Paul Norton. Anything that you may be doing professionally, or otherwise, is what your fellow members would like to hear about you. Call 302-645-8910, leave a message. Or write to Paul at 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958. Or e-mail to nanort@aol.com.