

February Newsletter



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Issue 2003-4

February Meeting	Reception	12:00 p.m.
Williamson's	Lunch	12:30 p.m.
February 17, 2004	Ratecard	\$20.00

Whatever happened to Global Warming? We're freezin'! Maybe good ole **Wally Kennedy** can warm things up for us. He'll be in charge on February 17 at Williamson's for the Pioneers luncheon.

To warm up, you'll have to join us on the third Wednesday at Williamson's at 12 noon fellowship, and 12:30 for luncheon. It will be \$20 but you must call for reservations.



Wally Kennedy

Wally has been with WPVI-TV for twenty years with AM Philadelphia and AM Live in which he highlighted always interesting, intelligent conversations. His appearance with us will be nothing different.

Again we can't emphasize this too much, phone 610-436-4217, or e-mail morris-sam6@aol.com

Happenings

Congratulations to everyone who joined us for lunch at Williamson's in January. **Frank Rizzo (Frannie)** was a pleasure and provided many insights into the current workings of Philadelphia City Council where the Republicans currently have more clout because of alignment with **Jannie Blackwell** than they might otherwise have. The WPEN talk show host also provided anecdotes from his fabled father's career. Good food, good fellowship and a delightful day. Those present were also presented with a CD titled "Your Hit Parade—August 21, 1943" by **Dave Custis** who has been

giving Christmas CD's to the club for years. Thanks for the wonderful gift, Dave.

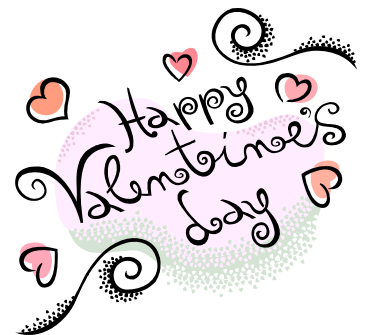
In early spring, the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia will be announcing the establishment of the archive which will be housed at the Keith and Shirley Campbell Library at Rowan University. The mission of the archive will be to collect and preserve television and radio programs, advertisements, and broadcast memorabilia of radio and television stations in the Philadelphia market. All donated material will be available for research and study. Anyone who would like to contrib-

ute broadcast memorabilia to this project should contact **Frank Hogan**.

Bill Wright, Sr., longtime Philadelphia broadcasting staple, advises that he and Joe Harnet are trying to interest the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY to do a series of great baseball stories for the Hall. Bill would narrate Ring Lardner, Zane Grey, Damon Runyon stories which could be run on baseball stations during rain delays. He'll keep us posted.

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"A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines."

Frank Lloyd Wright

More Happenings

Congratulations to member **Jean E. Moore** who has received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Upper Merion National Holiday Committee. Jean, who has a program on WRTI (90.1 FM) at 6 am Saturday, has been active for more than 40 years in the Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia.

Charlie Higgins has had knee surgery of an unspecified description and was home by 2:30 the same day. He reports that he's doing well and getting around but keeps crutches nearby, as needed.

While on the subject of body parts, it was

And More

We note with sadness the loss of **Captain Kangaroo (Bob Keeshan)** at age 76. His show premiered on CBS-TV on Monday, October 3, 1955, but wasn't seen in Philly until February 20, 1956, because the station had a very profitable and popular show on the air called **Mr. and Mrs.** which starred **Gene Crane** and his then wife, Joan. Also on the broadcast was **Bill Campbell** with sports, **Charles Shaw** with News, **Carney C. Carney** and **Willie the Worm** (to keep the children interested). (Thanks to **Gerry Wilkinson**.)

And....

Al Constantine, **Grace Kenny's** long time partner, advises that Ron Joseph of RJ's Disco USA on WVLT-FM 92.1 Friday night at 7 to 9 pm can now be heard worldwide on the internet on KXGQ.com, Friday night 9 pm to 1 am, Saturday night 9 pm to 10 pm on WMPH.org and Saturday 12 am to 1 am on KECG Live 36.5.com

John Brown says 2004 has a lot of anniversaries for him. 35 years in radio, 25 doing traffic, and his 25th wedding anniversary. To celebrate he's growing his hair

great to see **Bobby Kravitz**, who had his hip adjusted a few weeks ago, making his way around the tables at the Williaamson's luncheon with little problem. As you may recall, attendants were transferring him from stretcher to bed when Bobby was dropped after a recent hip replacement. You don't want to know what Bobby said at that moment.

Surprise! Member **Jean Goman** belongs to an Elton John newsgroup and discovered another fan that is also a Dr. Don Rose fan that lives in suburban San Francisco. This helped her discover The official Doctor Don Rose Home Page and the fact that he has been married 40 years (like a lot of us,

On the WBZ, Boston website the above mentioned Gerry discovered **Paul Sullivan (Jr.)** is on WBZ weeknights from 10 pm to midnight. The son of the late **Paul Sullivan**, who was a newscaster on WIP for many years, is a Lowell Sun columnist and political editor, and is an adjunct professor of Journalism and Communications at Middlesex Community College. His dad, whose picture is on our website, would be proud.

for the Locks of Love Organization. They make wigs for children with cancer. He says last time his hair was that long was back in the 60's and 70's. If you'd like to donate money for each inch of hair, maximum 10 inches, contact John at Hip-pee69@aol.com.

Welcome new member **Pete Michaels**, host and executive producer of Music Memories, Inc. Pete began his career in 1982 at WWDB.

she says).

Pat and Carter (the 'rascally but lovable Captain Noah') Merbreier spent their 33rd Christmas in England, with their daughter and granddaughters and great grandson. It is also the 33rd consecutive year that they have not been invited to any festivities of any sort...not even crummy "tea" for heaven's sake...at Buckingham Palace! The Merbreiers, incidentally, will be going to Germany to meet some long lost relatives who communicated with them because they discovered them through our internet website (www.broadcastpioneers.com). The German Merbreiers were among the 2 million who have checked it out so far.

Anna May and John Butterworth celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently at a mass renewal of their wedding vows at Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Attending the luncheon were over 150 friends and relatives, some coming from California. Their children gave them a two-week tour of Alaska which they thoroughly enjoyed. They must have gotten cold though. They'll miss the January luncheon because they'll be in Cancun, Mexico for two weeks. (Tough life, John.)

Most of the people in the newsletter sent items to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, or emailed Nanort@comcast.net, or phoned 1-302-645-8910. Let us hear from you next month.

"He has all the virtues I dislike, and none of the vices I admire."

Winston Churchill