

The Broadcast PIONEER

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Chapter of Broadcast Pioneers

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NEXT MEETING...NEXT MEETING...NEXT MEETING...NEXT MEETING

This month we will not have a regular luncheon meeting. Instead we are holding our annual Person of the Year banquet at the Adam's Mark Hotel on City Line Ave in Philadelphia. Our honoree this year is none other than our own Harold Pannepacker. The date is Thursday, May 21st. You should have received an invitation to this event in the mail. R.S.V.P. IS A MUST!!!!!! If you would like to attend PLEASE return the R.S.V.P. card you received with your invitation, and a check for the proper amount, to the post office box address at the top of this newsletter. The price is \$55.00 per person for Broadcast Pioneers members and \$75.00 per person for non-members. The proceeds from the banquet go directly to our scholarship fund. If you DEFINITELY will attend and you find that you just won't be able to mail your check and have it arrive in time please call Al Maslin at (215) 446-4936 and let him know. You can then pay at the door on the evening of the event. Let's all come out to support our scholarship program. PLEASE R.S.V.P.!!!!!!

Gene Crane continues to set records at 'CAU. In case you had been wondering, he's been with the CBS station since 1946. That summer he joined a bunch of other kids named Bill Hart, Hugh Ferguson, George Thomas, and Hugh Walton (Children's Hour) as a staff announcer. Continuously employed in the business for 51 years he does the weather on the weekends and announcing several days a week at the station. How much longer? He's puzzling the question. He has a place in Mexico, and has just sold his house and bought a condo at Valley Forge Towers. In addition to the above, he keeps busy by co-hosting the "Seniors Report" on channel 10.

Herewith we publish the names of the first inductees into the Hall of Fame of Philadelphia Broadcasting. All of our members will be receiving invitations to the luncheon at the Four Season's Hotel which is being held in conjunction with The Philadelphia Advertising Club. Jack Hyland is writing a one minute script to be narrated by Herb Clark with video packaged by David Abramson for each of the inductees. It is imperative that you respond quickly to the invitation as seating is limited. You won't want to miss it. It will mark the beginning of the long sought after Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

The inductees to the Hall of Fame are:

The Honorable Walter Annenberg

Group radio and TV owner, published TV Guide, Endowed the Annenberg Schools of Communications.

Dick Clark

Host of WFIL-TV's American Bandstand, television's longest running variety show. He was responsible for the introduction of countless musical artists.

John Facenda

The nation's first broadcaster to present a news program at 11 P.M. Over 2 decades as anchor on WCAU-TV and the voice of NFL Films.

Martha Gable

Appointed in 1955 as the first Director of Radio and TV for the Philadelphia School System.

Benedict Gimbel, Jr.

President and General Manager of WIP for 30 years. In 1922, his station was the first to broadcast around-the-clock in the Delaware Valley.

A. Atwater Kent

Operated an 11 acre plant in Germantown as the world's largest manufacturer of radio receivers.

Ernie Kovacs

Trailblazer in the use of non-traditional comedy on television. "Ernie in Kovacsland" (1951) was the last series produced locally at WPTZ (channel 3). The series was donated to the Museum of Television and Radio.

Vince Leonard

44 years in broadcasting; news anchor at KYW-TV; #1 in ratings from 1959 to 1971.

Isaac Levy, Esq.

Dr. Leon Levy

Brothers who, in the early 1920's, believed in profit potential in radio broadcasting. Their primitive 500 watt radio license grew into WCAU.

Max E. Solomon

Super salesman of radio and TV time beginning in the late 1920's and lasting for 5 decades.

Jack Steck

On the air in 1926. Producer, programmer, talent development at WFIL radio and TV for 35 years. Helped advance the careers of many famous broadcasters.

Florence Steck

Performer, producer, writer for WFIL radio in the 30's and 40's. Later at WFIL-TV produced, directed "Features for Women" and other series.

Robert (Bob) G. Wilder

For over 40 years, as a leading advertising executive, he was an advocate for the use of the electronic medium to sell produce.