



October Newsletter



October 2006

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October Meeting
Bala Golf Club
October 18, 2006
Reservations 856-365-5600 or rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com

Reception 12:00 p.m.
Lunch 12:30 p.m.
Ratecard \$25.00

It's eerie, it's scary, it's....The best Hallo'een meeting we've ever had is coming up this month. **John Zacherle (Roland of Shock Theatre)** will be with us, again driving a stake through "My Dear's" chest, because she likes it. He will be accompanied by **Karen Scioli "Stella"** of Saturday Night Dead, a show Zacherle (and **Bill Webber** and **Sally Starr**) were guests on, over the years 1984 to 1990. Stella will be 'dragging' along Hives, the butler from her show played by **Bob Billbrough**. There is far too much to recount about this month's guests here so we invite you to get the gory details on our website, www.broadcastpioneers.com, and be sure to join us **October 18**, the third Wednesday for a

wonderful trip down memory lane and a great salute to the witches brew that this month brings.

As an extra added attraction, there will be a little celebration on the retirement of our newest member (she rejoined after several years). **Sally Starr** is the member and also is in our Hall of Fame. She will be there.

Please make sure to make your reservations by calling 856-365-5600, or email rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com. It will be \$25 for salad to dessert, and we'll meet at 12 noon, with lunch served at 12:30. This is one that you'll not want to miss. Two legends at one meeting, and many other legends in the crowd. See your friends at Broadcast Pioneers in October.



Karen Scioli "Stella"



Zacherle

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"If you can't believe what you read in a comic books, what CAN you believe?"

Bullwinkle J.
Moose (Jay Ward)

Happenings

If you were not there for the meeting in September, you missed one of the truly great gatherings that brought a near record number of people. The room was full of Pioneers celebrating 40 years since the beginning of Famous 56 and the Boss Jocks. **Kris Chandler, Bob Charger** (Moderator), **Jim Nettleton, Paul Norton, Big Ron O'Brien, Allen Stone**, news, and **Gene Vassall**, sales and promotion, with some

words by **Ira Mellman**, brought back the good ole days of Boss Radio.

Ira Mellman, incidentally, though not on the schedule, told everyone how **Allen Stone** had helped him get his feet wet in news. Ira is now with WTOP in Washington, and was getting together with many old friends. He mentioned Mel **Kampmann**, who was his News Director at WFIL, and hopes to be

in touch with him. Mel is now living in lower, slower Delaware, and among other things, is performing in old radio shows.

In the crowd was another legend from another station, WIBG, in the person of **Bill Wright, Sr.** Bill has recently moved back to Philadelphia after a brief adventure, and some surgery, down south. He recounts that he has recently

heard from **Cal Milner** who formed half the team with the late **Larry Brown** on the 950 Club from 57 to 59. Cal is now in Fresno, CA but will stop in Philly as part of a cruise on November 6 with his wife. They hope to team up with B.W. Sr. and perhaps **Ed Hurst** at the Old Original Bookbinders. Any old pals of Cal's (or the others) might want to pop in.

More Happenings

Member **Kal Rudman's** philanthropies are well known, and Kal will be presented the T. Seddon Duke Award from the Fire Department on October 6. This is the highest honor conferred on a civilian and will be presented at a dinner at the Hyatt on the Delaware. Congratulations, Kal.

The Hall of Fame committee met before the September luncheon, and the posthumous selections were made. Those to be honored include: **Alan Scott, Bill Hart, Dr. Charles Lee, Mike Douglas, Philo Farnsworth,** and **Jessica Savitch.** They will be

inducted at our Person of the Year / Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday, November 17. Tickets are now on sale for \$65 for members, and \$85 for non-members. The selected are in addition to the four previously announced persons.

The Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia will have a separate program booklet for our banquet. Previously, we used the invitations. Ads will be sold for \$250 for a full page B & W Ad with \$175 for a half page Ad (copy ready). This provides an opportunity to reach a "Who's Who" of Philadel-

phia broadcasting for such a low price. If you're interested, contact **Frank Stone, Gerry Wilkinson** or **Pat Delsi.** You can e-mail pioneers@broadcastpioneers.com or call 856-365-5600.

The prayers of a lot of **Captain Noah's** friends were answered recently when the Captain (**W. Carter Merbreier**) came through very complicated heart surgery very well. He is recovering and while we haven't called, we are assured by those who have that he is doing very well.

And More

Living large on the Boardwalk and really enjoying it is member **Dick Sheeran,** long of KYW. He gets back to Philadelphia a lot though. For one thing, Dick is teaching at Temple, variously in news writing for TV, radio and other areas. Dick said that while he doesn't like to return to his old place of employment, he has scheduled a trip soon for his class. He says there is something about being around people working, where you worked, and not being involved. His friend and fellow KYW person, **Vince Hill,** is also teaching at Temple. He uses trains and buses for his trips back and forth. They have wonderful commuter facilities. Among many other things, he

returns for the Chadmore AC, a group that was active 40 years ago and has now gotten back together in their ahhh maturity.

Correspondent **Charlie Higgins** advises that there was a good turnout for Ed Harvey's Annual Cadaver Open at Glenhardie Country Club in Wayne. Among those present were **Tom Brookshier, Andy Musser** (1st time) **Frank Beazley, Jack Whitaker, Herb Clarke, Gene Crane** (brown as a nut and without a hairpiece), **Chris Wheeler** (once the Go Patrol reporter in the aircraft), **Alan Tripp, Frank Ford** (using a walker having had a stroke a

year ago) with his wife **DA Lynn Abraham** and a huge bodyguard. **Joe Pellegrino, Higgins, Ken Williams, Dick Kearney, Ernie Schmidt, Bob Patton** and **Jack Betz.** Apologies to anyone who may have been left out. Harvey gave out prizes garnered from sale day at the Dollar Store. Lotta laughs for all.

Everyone seemed to have a great time at the WFIL reunion. **Mel Klawansky** advises that there was more talent in one room than the law allows, and that everyone left their ego at home. There are loads of pictures at www.famous56.com, along with all the news that is WFIL.

And.....

Editor's note: This marks the first letter of the 21st year since **Paul Norton,** President in 1986, began doing the letter. The previous letter writer, not a member, died during that summer, and Paul, after trying to enlist **Rex Polier** (who did the September '86 letter but didn't continue), and Taylor Grant (who complained of writer's block) and failing, Norton began. He says it's been a wonderful 20 years.

hear that WVLT (92.1 FM) is opening up the 12N to 3PM Sundays for **Andy Kortman** playing all Sinatra, and then Bill will be on with what he knows best, the former WPEN sound. Big bands, blues, Tony Bennett, Steve and Edie from 3 til 6 PM. Sounds like an afternoon of great listening.

"My luck is so bad, if I bought a cemetery people would quit dying"
Ed Furgol

Is **Bill Webber** ever going to quit? Bill hasn't been on the air since WPEN made its unfortunate decision to change its format, and apparently the irrepressible 'Wee Willie' needs to be doing something. We

Rich Kellman has decided to retire. After a stint at WFIL in the 60's, Rich took a job as anchor at WGRZ Channel 2 in Buffalo.

He writes that it's great getting up on Monday and being stress free. (You could click on Kellman's Corner at www.wgrz.com and see the video for his story on the parallels between Buffalo and his hometown of Chester.) He's built a 14' x 20' addition to their house so he can produce, shoot, report and edit stories, then send them to the station by cable.

We need your help to do the newsletter. Please e-mail nanort@comcast.net, write Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, or call 302-645-8910.