

A Non-Profit Fraternal Organization of Radio and Television Broadcast Professionals

KIIS-FM Host Rick Dees is Honored by an Enthusiastic Crowd

Luncheon re-cap written by Don Barrett, Publisher of LAradio.com from a conversation with Rick Dees
Photos: David Keeler; Captions: Gerry Fry

For decades, **RICK DEES** ruled the morning drive airwaves, entertaining a couple of generations getting up for school and those commuting to work. On January 23, the industry got to repay the favor by honoring Rick at the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' celebrity luncheon at Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City. PPB president Commander **CHUCK STREET**, familiar sidekick in Rick's morning show at KIIS-FM from the "Yellow Thunder" traffic helicopter, presented the beautiful **ART GILMORE** Career Achievement Award to Dees.



"The honor itself was the highlight of the luncheon," said Rick a day later. "What a humbling feeling and joy to see my name next to those greatest talents in entertainment!"

A distinguished panel of friends turned out to relate stories about PPB honoree **RICK DEES** at the January 23rd celebrity luncheon in his honor. Rick is shown here with noted TV and motion picture producer **JERRY BRUCKHEIMER**, famed TV entertainment reporter **DAVID SHEEHAN** and KNBC's very funny weathercaster, **FRITZ COLEMAN**.

Dees loved "the lively one-liners and jokes from members of the dais." Appearing on the dais were **WALLY CLARK**, Rick's original general manager for much of the 80s, **KNBC/Channel 4** weatherman **FRITZ COLEMAN**, **KFI** night-timer **TIM CONWAY, JR.**, voice announcer **JOE CIPRIANO**,

former TV entertainment reporter **DAVID SHEEHAN**, and sportscaster **SCOTT ST. JAMES**, who worked alongside Rick for years.

There were some surprises. **JERRY BRUCKHEIMER** made an unexpected appearance. Bruckheimer has an impressive resume of producing such movie hits as *Top Gun*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *American Gigolo*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. His TV credits include the *CSI* series, and *The Amazing Race*. "Jerry is my dear friend, and he surprised all of us with his appearance and kind words," said Dees.



During **RICK DEES'** decades-long run as KIIS-FM's top-rated morning show host, he often called upon the multiple voice talents of his wife, **JULIE McWHIRTER DEES**, and other family members to entertain his morning drive-time audience. Julie is an accomplished voice actress and impressionist, best known for her work as Jeannie in the animated version of *Jeannie* and as Bubbles in *Jabberjaw*.

Rick wanted to acknowledge his dear friends and superstar talents in attendance: "**'SHOTGUN TOM' KELLY, MARK WALLENGREN, VALENTINE, WINK MARTINDALE, KERRI KASEM, MANCOW MUELLER, JOE KIELEY, PAUL JOSEPH, JACK SILVER, PAUL LIEBESKIND, MIKE RAMOS, FRANKIE QUIJANO, MELANIE LEACH, BOB CATANIA, JHANI KAYE, DANNY LEMOS, KRAIG KITCHIN, DENNIS CLARK, LOIS TRAVALENA, CHRIS HAMILTON, LYNN ANDERSON, CHARLIE RAHILLY, JUANITA THE J-UNIT, CHERYL QUIROS, JILL DEGAN, FRANCES MURIETTA,**



On the Dais: Front Row: **DAVID SHEEHAN, FRITZ COLEMAN**, honoree **RICK DEES, WALLY CLARK**. Back Row: **TIM CONWAY, JR., SCOTT ST. JAMES**, PPB President **CHUCK STREET, JOE CIPRIANO**. Not pictured: **JERRY BRUCKHEIMER**.

RAY DELAGARZA; the 102.7 KIIS-FM sales stars, **DIANE VUDMASKA, BOB MOORE, MARY BETH GARBER, JEFF WALD**, and so many more!"

Rick said he enjoyed re-connecting with "the most talented people in radio." A number of attendees just hung out after the luncheon, catching up and exchanging radio gossip and stories.

"I enjoyed the well-deserved award bestowed upon my dear friend, **MICHAEL BROCKMAN** ... (and) seeing the glowing recognition of **JULIE and KEVIN DEES**."

Dees thanked PPB prexy Chuck Street for "the incredible work that went into the event and the entire Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' board." Of course, Rick couldn't leave our conversation without a quip. He thanked the PPB "for the free parking at Sportsmen's Lodge."

PPB thanks **DON BARRETT** for his help in promoting the Rick Dees event through his website LAradio.com, a comprehensive listing of 6,000 Los Angeles radio people, spanning the last 57 years.

Network Television Programming Executive Michael Brockman Receives Diamond Circle Award

At each of our luncheons Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters honors one of its members who made a significant contribution to broadcasting.

Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' Past President **CHUCK SOUTH-COTT** presented the Diamond Circle Award to long-time PPB member **MICHAEL BROCKMAN** at the January 23rd luncheon. Here are Mr. Southcott's remarks:

Continued on page 2



TV Broadcasting Executive **MICHAEL BROCKMAN** receives the Diamond Circle Award from PPB Past President **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT**.

Not unlike so many broadcasting legends, **MICHAEL BROCKMAN**'s career started in the mailroom - in this case, at ABC in New York. He was soon promoted to clerk in the program department of WABC radio, working with (among others) **MARTIN BLOCK**, **TONY MARVIN**, **HERB OSCAR ANDERSON**, and **BOB EBERLE**.

Michael left to resume his education at Ithaca College, but also worked during summers at ABC as night program manager, overseeing WABC radio and television plus the ABC radio and TV network as management during the off hours. In 1965, he joined the production department and by the next year was overseeing such shows as *Dark Shadows*, *One Life to Live*, and a prime time special of *Arsenic and Old Lace* with **HELEN HAYES** and **LILLIAN GISH**.

In 1970, he became ABC-TV's network manager of daytime and children's programs including *All My Children*, the award winning *Scholastic Rock*, and after-school specials.

Then as vice president of daytime programs, Michael was involved in developing game shows such as *Family Feud* and *\$25,000 Pyramid* along with the serial *Ryan's Hope*. In 1978, Michael migrated to NBC as V.P. of daytime programs, then on to Lorimar Productions as vice president of first run syndication.

In 1982, CBS lured Michael away to become V.P. of daytime, children's, and then added late night programs in 1985. Shows featuring his touch included *The Bold and the Beautiful*, *The Muppet Babies*, and *Pee-wee's Playhouse*.

Finally in 1989, he returned to ABC as president of daytime, children's, and late night programs, becoming the first to serve in this capacity at all three major networks - one of them twice! Most recently, Michael joined Mark Goodson Productions as vice president, and then went into independent production, partnering with **BOB NOAH** in game show development.

Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters is proud to bestow the Diamond Circle Award on our friend, member, and more-than-incalculable PPB supporter ... Michael Brockman!

Kudos

PPBer **JIM OVERMAN** couldn't be prouder of his wife. In December, **LINDA OVERMAN** received her PhD in Creative Writing from Lancaster University, Lancashire, England, along with an MFA in Creative Writing from California State University, Chico, and an MA in Creative Writing from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Jim says, "Her background as a production manager at KNBC-TV prepared her well for the long and positively grueling hours of scholarly and pedagogical application as a lecturer in the English department at CSUN."



Honoree **RICK DEES** was delighted to see "SHOTGUN TOM" **KELLY** sporting the official Rick Dees Hollywood Walk of Fame pin awarded to Rick in 1984.



It was an Armed Forces Radio reunion at the Dees luncheon for two of LA's former DJs and PPB Board Member **GERRY FRY**. Both **JIM PEWTER** (left) and **GENE PRICE** (center) entertained military personnel around the world with their daily programs recorded in Hollywood and sent overseas. Gerry was the AFRTS Director of Programming at that time.

Luncheon Photos by PPB Member Don Graham





During the Super Bowl game on February 1st, 102-year-old PPB member **CONNIE SAWYER** was featured in an ad for Dodge titled *Old Peoples' Wisdom*. Her lines, "live for now" and "live fast," combined with those of other centenarians, were in a montage celebrating Dodge's 100th birthday. The commercial can be seen on YouTube.com.

ED MANN's company, MannGroup Radio, has been consulting for San Francisco based music streamer Rdio for nine months. He says, "They're seeing the kind of growth that radio used to see back in the 80's. It's an energizing, vibrant market and truly where radio is heading; they incorporate radio programming philosophies into their new programming and promotional activities." Ed continues to appear with his jazz group, the Ed Mann Sextet.

Longtime **BOB HOPE** writer **BOB MILLS** recently hosted his *Bob Hope Backstage* multi-media show featuring 20 years of stories and clips at the SPERDVAC Old Time Radio Convention in Burbank. The show was taped and may be seen on the web at dailymotion.com/video/k1RRMOgKeZ6ACu9F82J

CHARLOTTE BAKER has moved to be closer to her son in Valencia. Scott says she's doing well and hopes to be back in her Sherman Oaks home soon. Charlotte's first husband **BUDDY BAKER** composed the music for many of Disney films. She later married **EARL EBI**, PPB's fourth president.

Help Needed From PPB Members

KNXT alum **DAN GINGOLD** is looking for information about Brittingham's Radio Center Restaurant at CBS Columbia Square in the 40s. If anyone has recollections about the place, Dan would like to hear from you by phone (818-784-4368) or email (gingolddan@yahoo.com). C-Square is nearing completion and should be opening in the near future with a new restaurant.

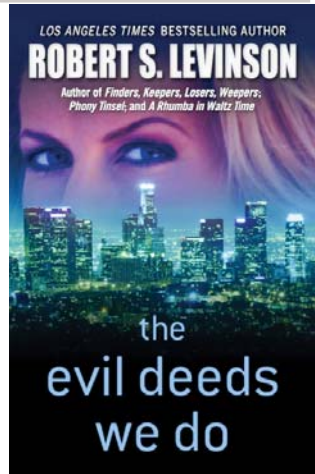
STEVE LaVERE is "compiling a bio-discography-filmography concerning my father's long career in music and entertainment. His name was **CHARLES LaVERE**. Presently I am seeking archival information concerning early television in Los Angeles - names and content of programs, as well as knowledge of existing kinescopes. The time period with which I'm concerned is 1943 to 1949 and the stations are Paramount (1943), KTLA and KLAC (1948), and KTTV (1949)." Steve can be contacted by e-mailing him at deltahaze@hotmail.com.

OOPS!! With apologies, **CHERIE MacQUEEN's** name was spelled incorrectly in our January newsletter.

<p>YOUR NAME</p>	<p>Orderforms for PPB Badges are available at each luncheon in the lobby at Sportsmen's Lodge. Stop by and order yours.</p>
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Send your news to **BIANCA PINO** P.O. Box 8673 Calabasas, CA 91372, or by e-mail to Bianca.Pino@ppbwebsite.org

Following **ROBERT S. LEVINSON's** recent launch of his 13th crime novel, *The Evil Deeds We Do*, he'll appear Saturday, February 21, 1:00 pm, at Book Carnival in Orange, 348 South Tustin St., and Saturday, February 28, 1:00 pm, at Mysterious Galaxy in San Diego, 5943 Balboa Ave., Suite 100. Booklist says of *The Evil Deeds We Do*: "The writing is crisp and hard-boiled, reminiscent of the golden age of Chandler and Hammett but with a modern twist." Kirkus Reviews reports: "A relentless prosecutor, a power-loving political aide, and a desperate record producer form a dangerous triangle ... Levinson's narration alternates between suspenseful buildups and elaborate back stories in a ruthless world in which no one is to be trusted, the author least of all."



GSN's **DAVID SCHWARTZ** highly recommends the newly published book, *Los Angeles Television*. Author **JOEL TATOR** produced and directed more than 8,500 television broadcasts and collected 25 Emmy Awards along the way. Material for the book was collected from various Los Angeles TV anniversary programs, interviews conducted with local TV personalities, and photographs from the archives of the Museum of Broadcast Communications, founded by broadcaster **BRUCE DuMONT**. The foreword was written by **TOM BROKAW**.

Los Angeles television history began in the small room of an auto dealership in 1931. Since then, much of the nation's TV history has been made here: the first television helicopter, the first big story that TV broke before newspapers, the first live coverage of an atomic bomb, and the careers of numerous icons. The book contains hundreds of photos and is available at retailers everywhere and on-line.



Names of former and current PPB members are underlined.

From left to right in the front row: MARY PARKS, BILL STULLA, MIKE STOKEY, ART LINKLETTER, STAN FREBERG, TOM HATTEN

Second row: BARON MICHELE LEONE, HARRY OWENS, EDDIE GEVERTZ, FRANK HERMAN, CRISWELL, DOROTHY GARDINER, DICK GARTON

Third row: JACK ROURKE, PETER POTTER, CLIFFIE STONE, STAN CHAMBERS, JACK LATHAM, CHARLIE STAHL



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From the Archives



This photo was taken at a meeting of the PPB Board of Directors – although we don't know the exact date, it took place sometime in the early 60s at Sportsmen's Lodge. Pictured are (front row, left to right): BARBARA FULLER, BILL BALDWIN, ART GILMORE, JEANNE DeVIVIER BROWN, LENORE KINGSTON, KEN CARPENTER, ROBERT AHMANSON; (Back row) LES TREMAYNE, FRAN ALLISON, unidentified, VICKI RISK, LENA ROMAY, DRESSER DAHLSTEAD, OLAN SOULE, JANET WALDO, unidentified, MARTY HALPERIN, MARIE SAMUELS, HARFIELD WEEDEN, JOHN GUEDEL, HARRY O'CONNOR.

Upcoming Events of Interest

LARRY VANDERVEEN continues to appear throughout Southern California in his hit one-man play, *Meeting F. Scott Fitzgerald*. He's received great accolades following his recent appearances. **DAVID B. BRAGG**, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus, University of Redlands said: "F. Scott Fitzgerald has been one of my favorite authors for many years, but nothing made him come alive for me until Larry Vanderveen's one-man show. Outstanding." **LINDA ADAMS YEH**, Library Program Coordinator, San Bernardino Public Library said: "Larry's writing and acting are superb, entertaining, and informative. We already have requests to bring him back next year." Larry's upcoming performance will be at the San Pedro Regional Library, 931 South Gaffey Street on Saturday, March 14th at 2:00pm. Admission is free. For more info, go to meetingscottfitzgerald.com.



KAREN SARGENT RACHELS begins her 21st year of directing and producing theatrical productions in Big Bear Lake with her group The Community Arts Theater Society (CATS). She opens an original musical revue *Broadway Broads of Big Bear*, March 20 - March 29, followed by *Annie Get Your Gun*, June 26 - July 12, and an original adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, November 13-29. She says, "Come up and visit us for Broadway in the Pines!" Tickets and info at www.bigbeartheater.org.

BILL A. JONES will reprise his role as Rod Remington in the final season of *Glee*. Watch for Bill in brief but very funny appearances in episodes 11 and 12.

WALDEN HUGHES reports that the next big radio event on stage will be the *REPS Showcase* at the Bellevue Coast Hotel in Bellevue, WA, April 15 through 19. The web site is repsshowcase.com and will be updated as events and participants are announced. As of this publishing, attending from PPB are **TOMMY COOK**, **STUFFY SINGER** and **IVAN CURY**. **JOHN** and **LARRY GASSMAN** and Walden are helping to produce the event.

New Members

JOE CANDIDO has had a 25 year career in TV. He began at NBC-TV as a program lawyer rising to VP, Marketing Policy and Program Practices. He was then named President of AmeriTeleMedia, a subsidiary of the Home Shopping Network, packaging celebrities and products for sale on and outside of HSN. Joe's formed several companies including Reimagine Media & Marketing. He maintains an interest in and a strong working relationship with Enteractive Solutions Group, the premier supplier of game show and sweepstakes compliance services in the world. Joe was sponsored into PPB by **HAROLD GREENE**.

KEN JEFFRIES is a news anchor, reporter, announcer, and producer who began his career as a DJ in 1972 at WBRX-AM in Berwick, PA. He's been in radio for 42 years. He worked for WAZY-AM and FM in Lafayette, Indiana; was creative director at Good Idea Advertising; was a DJ at KPGA-FM in Pismo Beach; was news director and morning anchor for Comedy Radio; and, he annually announced the *SPCA-LA Telethon* on KCAL-TV hosted by Betty White. Ken anchored, reported and was San Fernando Valley Bureau Chief for KFWB radio. While there, he was awarded the Golden Mike 10 times. He did podcasting for the L.A. Daily News, and wrote, produced, and voiced mini-newscasts for the paper's website. Ken is not retired and is available. Ken's sponsor is **RANDY KERDOON**.

HARRY R. WIRTH - In the 80s, Harry was president of the Network Group, Inc., then manager of finance and administration at NBC-TV in Burbank and in Atlanta, GA. In 1996, he was senior technical manager for the Summer Olympic Games, and was producer and technical and transmission manager for Olympic Village at the 2002 Winter Olympics. He designed and supervised the installation of the audio production center at the University of Georgia and instructed students in production and editing techniques, both analog and digital. Harry was digital artist on *Roar*, the IMAX nature documentary. Currently, Harry is manager of post production at the School of Cinematic Arts at USC, where he supervises post-production operations. Harry was sponsored into PPB by **RUSS STACEY**.