

Closed Circuit THE WGN FAMILY LETTER

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August 22, 1978

Welcome to our world, Sacramento!



WGN Continental Broadcasting Company

■ Chicago: WGN Radio, WGN Television ■ Duluth-Superior: KDAL Radio, KDAL Television ■ Denver: KWGN Television ■ California, Michigan, New Mexico: WGN Electronic Systems Company

* formerly KCRA

SACRAMENTO'S KCRA (AM), KCTC (FM) NOW

PART OF WGN CONTINENTAL BROADCASTING COMPANY

NEW AM CALL LETTERS WILL BE KGNR

Chicago-based WGN Continental Broadcasting Company completed the purchase of KCRA (AM) and KCTC (FM), Sacramento, on August 15th, from Kelly Broadcasting Company. The agreement of sale was entered into last August, with final FCC approval received in June.

With the transfer of ownership, WGN announced that new call letters will be assigned KCRA. As of August 28, the call letters will be KGNR. The call letter change is being made since Kelly Broadcasting still owns and operates KCRA-TV.

Commenting on the new acquisition, DANIEL T. PECARO, President and Chief Executive Officer of WGN Continental, said, "We are delighted to be able to expand our operations in California, particularly with two such outstanding stations in one of our nation's fastest growing markets. We are impressed with the steady growth and vitality of Sacramento and are looking forward to not only maintaining the quality of broadcast service that has been rendered through the years by these fine stations, but to participating in the future development of KCRA and KCTC in providing the finest in radio information and service."

WGN Continental Broadcasting Company is a subsidiary of Tribune Company. WGN Continental also owns WGN AM-TV, Chicago; KWGN-TV, Denver and KDAL AM-TV, Duluth. Other subsidiaries include WGN Electronic Systems Company, with CATV systems in Michigan, California and New Mexico; WGN Continental Productions Company, Chicago-based production and syndication arm of the company and WGN Continental Sales Company, rep firm with offices in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Detroit.

JACK FLEMING NEW PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER

FOR WGN-TV'S CHICAGO BULLS TELECASTS

WGN Television and the CHICAGO BULLS announced the signing of top sportscaster JACK FLEMING to handle the coverage of the 20-game telecast schedule of the BULLS' 78-79 season. JOHNNY KERR, former Bulls coach and basketball great, will return to do the color analysis of the games.

Fleming, who was the radio voice of the Bulls from 1970 to 1973, has been one of the most active sports announcers in the nation..

Next week he will begin his 21st consecutive season as the radio voice of the Pittsburgh Steelers and in September he will start his 25th year doing play-by-play for West Virginia University football and basketball over the Mountaineer Sports Network.

WGN Television is in the second year of a three-year television agreement with the Bulls and will telecast a minimum of 20 road games beginning October 21, plus play-off games, if applicable.

CHICAGO BULLS 1978-1979 WGN TELEVISION SCHEDULE

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>CHICAGO AIR TIME</u>
1. Sat.	10/21/78	at Cleveland Cavaliers	7:00 pm
2. Sat.	10/28/78	at Atlanta Hawks	6:30 pm
3. Wed.	11/01/78	at Boston Celtics	6:30 pm
4. Fri.	11/10/78	at Detroit Pistons	7:00 pm
5. Wed.	11/15/78	at Houston Rockets	8:00 pm
6. Sun.	12/17/78	at Milwaukee Bucks	7:30 pm
7. Wed.	12/20/78	at San Antonio Spurs	7:30 pm
8. Tue.	12/26/78	at San Diego Clippers	10:00 pm
9. Thu.	12/28/78	at Denver Nuggets	8:30 pm
10. Tue	1/02/79	at Washington Bullets	7:00 pm
11. Wed.	1/03/79	at Philadelphia 76ers	7:00 pm
12. Wed.	1/10/79	at New Jersey Nets	7:00 pm
13. Fri.	2/23/79	at New Orleans Jazz	7:30 pm
14. Wed.	2/28/79	at Washington Bullets	7:00 pm
15. Sat.	3/03/79	at Atlanta Hawks	6:30 pm
16. Thu.	3/08/79	at Phoenix Suns	8:30 pm
17. Fri.	3/09/79	at Los Angeles Lakers	10:00 pm
18. Fri.	3/16/79	at Houston Rockets	8:00 pm
19. Wed.	3/21/79	at Indiana Pacers	8:00 pm
20. Wed.	3/28/79	at Philadelphia 76ers	7:00 pm

The menu for the cafeteria will be printed in the Closed Circuit every other week. TOM the Manager of ARA, is hoping we will enjoy the above menu, as well as other delicious meals he has planned for the future.

COMPANY ANNIVERSARIES - CONGRATULATIONS!

MARSHALL BRODIEN celebrated 5 years with WGN on August 1.

Marshall's performance on BOZO's CIRCUS as WIZZO the WIZARD has delighted children on WGN-TV, for many years.

Marshall's interest in magic started at the age of 8. He began giving shows at parties, schools, churches and neighborhood groups. At age 16 he worked as a barker at Chicago's Riverview Amusement Park - billed as the World's Professional Magician.

After his Army stint in the Special Services Entertainment Section, he opened his own night club in Chicago, and then appeared at the famous Cairo Supper Club for two years. Thereafter, he was with the Ice Royals, became one of the top TV Shows, and created all TV Magic products. He is one of the top sleight-of-hand artists in the country and a master of close-up magic.



Marshall Brodien



WIZZO

EARL WHITMAN

Earl is an Engineer in the Television area and celebrated 25 years with WGN on August 15.



Earl Whitman

LEE KINNAN

Lee is celebrating her 20th anniversary with WGN on August 25.

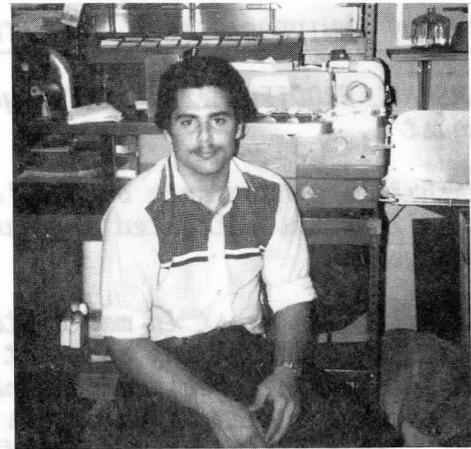
She started in the Television Sales Department, was transferred to the Television Program Department to work as secretary for Sheldon Cooper and is currently working for him in the Administration Department.

Her hobbies are golf, sewing and reading.



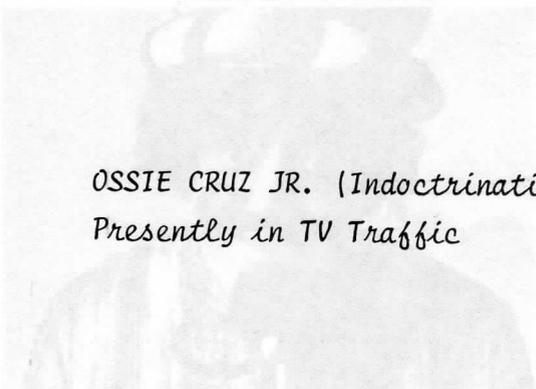
WELCOME TO THE WGN "FAMILY"

PAT PISANO - Mailroom



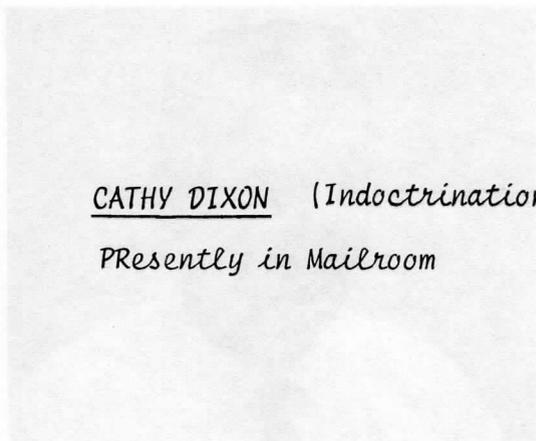
Pat Pisano

OSSIE CRUZ JR. (Indoctrination)
Presently in TV Traffic



Ossie Cruz Jr.

CATHY DIXON (Indoctrination)
Presently in Mailroom



Cathy Dixon



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Bob Shonerock -- September 1
 Ron Patris -- September 1
 Tony Sulla -- September 2
 Kenneth Gill -- September 2
 Steve Hunter -- September 2
 Mike Jordan -- September 2
 Gerri Bafundo -- September 3
 Lee Kinnan -- September 4

Bob Canick -- September 6
 Tom McEvilly -- September 7
 Arvid Carlson -- September 7
 Gloria Billingsley -- September 7
 Tray Tomberlin -- September 8
 Tony Noce -- September 8
 Mary MacBain -- September 9

GET WELL WISHES

Send Get Well Wishes to FLOYD BROWN
 Sherman Hospital
 934 Center
 Elgin, Ill. 60120

Delores KOLTZ
 -- Lutheran General Hospital
 1775 Dempster
 Park Ridge, Ill. 60068

Thoughtful note from Dick Jungers --

"To All My Friends in the WGN "family" --

May I extend my profound thanks and deepest appreciation for your thoughtful phone calls and cards that I have received during my current illness.

It is most difficult to express how important these things are during a period of long confinement.

Warmest personal regards to one and all.

Dick Jungers

Delores Koltz would like to thank everyone for their many get well wishes. She is feeling better.

FOR SALE: 1975 MUSTANG II, 6 cylinder - \$2,600.00. Also, 1971 CAMARO - 350 engine, needs lots of body work. 631-4436 after 6 or weekends before noon.

FOR RENT: Apartment at 2500 North Lakeview, 23rd floor. Designers spacious one bedroom unit; 1-1/2 baths, air-conditioned; stove, refrigerator and dishwasher. Beautiful lake view from every room. Newly decorated, wall-to-wall carpeting, custom drapes, levolor blinds, wall coverings. Swimming pool, exercise room. Indoor parking available. Available October 1, 1978. \$525 per month. 750-5891 or 677-6950 evenings or weekends.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK Turkey Breast with Sauce

Bake turkey breast and baste with 1/2 C. butter and 1/2 C. white wine.

SAUCE:	5 T. Butter	1/4 C. Flour
	3 T. minced onion	1 1/2 C. chicken broth
	1 tsp. salt	2/3 C. heavy cream
	1/2 tsp. black pepper	1-1/2 tsp. crushed Taragon

It butter, stir in onions and cook gently several minutes (do not brown onions). Add flour & stir until blended & simmer a few minutes. Stir in broth and continue stirring until smooth & thick. Reduce heat, add seasonings and tarragon and stir to blend flavors. Gradually add any basting liquid thats left and the cream. Stir to make a rich smooth sauce.
 Slice turkey and serve with sauce.

Ray Rayner:
What is everyone in the world doing at the same time?

Growing older!



**WGN PHOTO CONTEST
ENTER THOSE PRIZE WINNING PHOTOS NOW**

1. Open to all employees!
2. Prizes for the best!
3. Contest each month!
4. No fee for entries, maximum of four (4) photos per entrant.

Submit photos with form attached to an outer envelope. Place in Housemail to:

**"WGN PHOTO CONTEST"
WGN MAIL ROOM**

#####

WGN PHOTO CONTEST, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER - 1978

Submitted by: _____

Department: _____ Number of photos: _____

- RULES:**
1. Place description on back of photos with your name and department number.
 2. All photos must be made by person submitting same.
 3. All entries must be submitted by the closing of the last work day of the month

NOTE: In all fairness to each and every entrant, the judges and the Camera Club have made the ruling that only one print per person will be awarded a prize each month. You may enter four (4) prints each month, but you can only receive one award per month. The best prints will be on display in the Camera Club case opposite TV Studio One in the first floor hallway.

CHICAGO HAPPENINGS ----

MARSHA CASSIDY, Producer of "EXTENSION 720" and the "JOAN McGRATH SHOW," guest lectured at a graduate seminar in communications at Northwestern University on August 10th. She will also appear as a panelist at the Publicity Club of Chicago's luncheon on Wednesday, October 4th, with Diane Storck, Producer of "A.M. Chicago" and Susan Eggleton, Producer of WIND talk and public affairs programs. The topic: "What Public Relations Companies Should Know About Talk Shows."

* *

JACK JACOBSON and MIKE PYLE will compete in the AFRO-AMERICAN SUPER-STAR TENNIS and RACQUETBALL CELEBRITY MATCH on August 26 at the Lake Shore Racquet Club.

* *

ORLANDO WHITE will attend the National Committee Advisory to the Federal Bureau of Investigation seminar during the week of September 5th in Quantico, Virginia.

* *

KAY JOYCE, of the Sports Department, was on the Executive Media Committee for IRISH FAMILY DAY, which was held at Navy Pier on Sunday, August 20th. It was a great day for the Chicagoland Irish, with over 30,000 people in attendance. Among those at the special awards presentation featured during the day were MAYOR MICHAEL O'BILANDIC and his wife, HEATHER, Mrs. Eleanor "Sis" Daley, States Attorney Bernard J. Carey, Neil Hartigan, etc.

IRISH FAMILY DAY was followed up on August 22nd, with IRISH NIGHT at Comiskey Park, when the White Sox took on the Kansas City Royals, after two hours of pre-game Irish entertainment, including the presentation of a huge blarney stone to HARRY O'CARAY. Chicago has never been as "green" as it was these past few days!

WGN AIRWAVES

To date, the WGN AIRWAVES may be considered "UNDEFEATED." We won our first game against ABC by a score of 19 to 12.

In addition to thanking all those who came out to watch and motivate us with their fantastic cheering, we send special thanks to RAY MELENDEZ, PHIL REID, and RICH LOIZZO for their "volunteer" coaching.

Our schedule for the week of August 28 is as follows:

Monday, August 28
Practice outside of WGN
Begins between 5:15 and 5:50

Tuesday, August 29
Game against ABC at Lincoln Park
Begins between 6:00 and 6:30

Thursday, August 31
Game against NBC outside of WGN
Begins between 6:00 and 6:30

As always, we need your support and urge anyone and everyone to come out and watch the WGN AIRWAVES remain "Undefeated."

Jane Mendez

THE DAILY HERALD

'Hee Haw Honey's' to be spinoff of country corn

by JOE EDWARDS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — More pickin' and grinnin' is headed your way from Cornfield County.

"Hee Haw Honey's," a 30-minute spinoff of the "Hee Haw" television show, will premier this fall on some 100 television stations across the country, including WGN-TV Channel 9. The new syndicated show features many of the same "Hee Haw" cast members, country music guest stars and most of the same behind-the-scenes production executives.

The major differences are that the new show is 30 minutes shorter, the cast is smaller and the segments within the show are longer. "Hee Haw Honey's" is based in a cafe-nightclub, Kenn Price and Lulu Roman run the club, with help from their children, Misty Rowe Gallard Sartain and Kathy Lee Johnson.

All appear on "Hee Haw" except Miss Johnson, who is on the television show "Name That Tune."

A MAJOR GUEST star will appear each week. Among those featured during the first 24 shows are Dottie West, Anne Murray, Mac Davis, Roy Clark, the Oak Ridge Boys, the Statler Brothers and Johnny Russell. Several stations plan to air the show during the 30 minutes preceding "Hee



COUNTRY MUSIC stars Roy Clark, left, and Mac Davis are among major performers who will be guest stars on a new television country music show premiering this fall, "Hee Haw Honey's." A spin-off from "Hee Haw" and 30 minutes shorter, it will be carried by WGN-TV.

I will make my singing debut."

Comparing the two shows, she said, "You'll get to know the characters better in this show because the skits are longer. The comedy is in the same

"They've opened up my character, and they've given me more to do. Miss Rowe said in an interview on the "Hee Haw" early Saturday night.

vein. It's very corny, very slapstick," she continued. "I think it will do very well," she said. "It's pre-sold for 24 shows, and this is a good sign because some go for only four."

"YOU CAN'T GET too much of a good thing. There are lots of doctor shows and detective shows, but not a lot of country shows. There's always been a country audience that wasn't tapped, people who love country music and country humor. And the country audience is very loyal. This show should run for years. We'll have the same 'Hee Haw' audience and pick up more eventually."

Sam Lovullo, producer of both shows, said the spinoff didn't originate earlier "because the company just wasn't hungry enough."

"But things are going so well for country music and our kind of comedy that we figured we might just as well jump into it."

"I have some reservations," Lovullo acknowledged. "Hee Haw" is on 52 weeks a year, and now we've got the new show. But I'm sure people will accept it.

"We'll have longevity — it's good for a few years. I don't think this will go for 10 years like 'Hee Haw,' but who knows? After all, they said 'Hee Haw' wouldn't last past 12 weeks."

8/18/78

LERNER TIMES NEWSPAPERS,

The Lerner TV & Radio Report

Ravencroft appointed news director at WGN

By JERRY FIELD

JOHN RAVENCROFT has been named news director of WGN Radio and WGN Television. Ravencroft, a native Chicagoan, fills the vacancy created by the promotion of Bob Hensley to president of KGNR, Sacramento, Cal., which moved former news director Wayne Vriesman to WGN Radio station manager.

Ravencroft had been assistant news director since 1977 and will continue to place local news in the forefront of all newscasts. WGN receives national news via independent satellite feed. Since Ravencroft joined WGN in 1970, the news department has won two state Associated Press awards under Ravencroft's supervision. Ravencroft, of Glenview, graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign. He is married to the former Judith Neal.

WTTW/Channel 11 is the most watched public television station in the nation, according to the recent Nielsen ratings.

WTTW this week will broadcast from Wolf Trap Farm Park a series of live concerts. On Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 8 p.m., a 2½-hour Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie Folk and Blues concert; Wednesday, Aug. 23, the Joffrey Ballet at 8 p.m.; Thursday, Aug. 24, a



JOHN RAVENCROFT

simulcast with WXRT (FM 93), of the Chuck Mangione concert; Friday, Aug. 25, at 7:30 p.m., a three-hour concert with conductor Leonard Bernstein, Mstislav Rostropovich, Andre Previn and Yehudi Menuhin.

The 1935 MGM film, "Mutiny on the Bounty," will be seen on WGN-TV Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. with one commercial break. The classic film series is sponsored by IBM.

WMAQ-TV's new children's news program will be called "Kidding Around," produced by Karen

Bloomgarden of Bubble Gum Digest fame, and will star Shawn Gourdie, 12, of Palatine, and Steve Smith, a 27-year-old clown, formerly of Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus. The show will be seen at noon on Saturdays starting Sept. 2.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS: Mary Nissenson, a native of Highland Park, is the chief investigator of the Channel 2 Fact Finder unit. Nissenson replaces Richard Waldow, who has switched to the station's sports department as producer. WBBM-TV's new season of Two on Two will have Patrice Fletcher continuing as coproducer with George Baum, who moves over from "Noonbreak." Herman Rowe leaves WXRT to be the general manager of KXRT in Taos, N.M. Frank Jackson moves from producer of "Common Ground" to executive producer for all public affairs programs at WBBM-TV.

Evanston filmmaker Dugan Rosalini's Otto: Zoo Gorilla will be seen on WTTW, Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 8 p.m. The film traces the move of 27 great apes from their primate house to the new great ape house at the Lincoln Park zoo. The film was underwritten by a grant from Sears, Roebuck and Co.

WLS-TV is scheduled to rebroadcast "Roots" during the week of Sept. 5.

It's Your Business Vote Of Confidence



By John Burns

THERE WAS MORE to it than met the eye when WGN Continental Broadcasting Co. of Chicago reached across the country and bought the KCRA (AM) and KCTC (FM) stations in Sacramento.

WGN's \$5.5 million investment was based not only on the current value of the stations but on studies of the Sacramento area's growth prospects.

In other words it was buying the future as well as the present. Its appraisal of the market should be encouraging to other businesses here, and not just broadcasters.

The 54-year-old Chicago company, whose properties include WGN Radio, the top revenue producer among the nation's radio stations, is expanding, but with deliberate speed.

The Sacramento acquisitions were its first in the broadcasting field since 1965, when it bought KWGN-TV, Denver. Its last previous purchase of a radio station was way back in 1960, in Duluth, Minn.

Other broadcasting holdings are WGN-TV, Chicago, and KDAL-TV, Duluth.

Most of the company's growth in recent years has been in cable television. It owns cable systems in Michigan, New Mexico and Southern California.

William H. Wills, WGN Continental's public relations manager, flew out from Chicago this week for the completion of the purchases from Kelly Broadcasting Co. of Sacramento.

"WGN is continuously on the look-out for properties that might be acquired," Wills said. "I doubt if a week goes by without one being proposed or mentioned. About 95 percent are dismissed immediately, but the others are examined carefully."

He said the Sacramento transaction was on the griddle almost two years.

"Our company was interested in the potential growth of the market and KCRA's competitive position," he said. "It wouldn't go into an area that was saturated with radio.

"Kelly Broadcasting had been in business many years and invested heavily in equipment and personnel. The stations were strong. All of the projections indicated continuous growth for the Sacramento area. Every study we made said 'Go'."

ONE INDICATION OF the importance WGN attaches to the Sacramento stations was the appointment of Robert E. Henley as president and general manager here.

Since joining the company in 1959 as a news writer, he has been through the chairs, holding key positions in both radio and television in Chicago. He was WGN-TV news director and manager of the radio station before his promotion in 1975 to vice president and general manager-radio for WGN Continental. He holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois.

"We have 485 employees in Chicago, and I think the other 484 all would have liked to come to Sacramento with me," Henley said. He likes the prospects:

"Everyone in the business, of course, knows what is happening in California, and all our studies pointed to continuing growth for Sacramento. But nothing brought this home to me more vividly than an airplane ride. I saw it for myself."

JUDGING FROM A STUDY made for the National Association of Broadcasters, the future looks promising for the Sacramento area's 18 AM and FM radio stations. From 1975 through 1985, according to NAB projections, radio advertising revenues for the three-county area will have risen from \$6.8 million to \$12.5 million — an increase 83 percent.

By 1985, the report said, there will be 560 million operable radio sets in the U.S., or 2.4 per person, compared to 401 million in 1975.

Radio is seen as holding its own in "fierce" competition for advertising dollars. Ad money going into radio has increased steadily almost every year since the early 1950s; in the 1971-76 period, it received a larger portion of such expenditures than at any time since 1953.

The NAB report made the interesting prediction that FM radio will be "fully competitive" with AM by 1985, thanks to improved reception and the move to quadraphonics.

"In the future, we will think of 'radio,' rather than AM and FM radio," the report said.

Projections like those undoubtedly entered into WGN Continental's decision to expand into the Sacramento market.

It's official: Chicagoans buy KCRA



Robert E. Henley
Same program format

The sale of Sacramento radio stations KCRA (AM) and KCTC (FM) becomes final today following final approval from the Federal Communications Commission. WGN Continental Broadcasting Co. of Chicago, the purchaser, has named Robert E. Henley as president of the two stations that were sold by Kelly Broadcasting Co.

HENLEY ANNOUNCED that new call letters will be assigned to KCRA to comply with FCC rules and regulations, since Kelly Broadcasting is retaining ownership of KCRA-TV and its call letters.

As of Aug. 28, the new call letters will be KNGR.

Henley said he plans to maintain the same program format, "that has made KCRA first and KCTC third in the market in total audience on a Monday through Sunday rating period."

Henley will have total responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the stations. Henley, who has been with WGN for 19 years, most recently as vice president and general manager-radio for the broadcasting company, said he will keep the same staff but will add manpower if warranted.

Commenting on the new acquisition, Daniel T. Pecaro, president and chief executive officer of WGN Continental, said, in a prepared statement, "We are delighted to be able to expand our operations in California, particularly with two such outstanding stations in one of our nation's fastest growing markets. We are impressed with the steady growth and vital

of Sacramento and are looking forward to the new acquisition. We are delighted to be able to expand our operations in California, particularly with two such outstanding stations in one of our nation's fastest growing markets. We are impressed with the steady growth and vital

Chicago Firm Takes Over 2 Capital Radio Stations



ROBERT E. HENLEY
... broadcasting executive

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Tuesday, August 15, 1978

WGN Continental Broadcasting Co., Chicago, today will complete the purchase of KCRA (AM) and KCTC (FM) from the Kelly Broadcasting Co. of Sacramento. Terms of the sale, agreed upon last August, were not disclosed.

As of Aug. 28, WGN announced, the call letters of the stations will be changed to KNGR to comply with federal regulations, since Kelly Broadcasting is retaining ownership of KCRA-TV and its call letters.

Robert E. Henley, vice president and a director of WGN Broadcasting, has been named president and general manager of the Sacramento stations.

Henley joined WGN in 1959 as a news writer. He moved up to news director of WGN-TV and later served as station manager for the radio station, largest in the U.S., before becoming a vice president of WGN Continental.

He said he contemplates no changes in the basic formats of KCRA and KCTC.

WGN owns a cable television company in Southern California, but this is its first radio venture in the state. WGN Continental is a subsidiary of the Tribune Co., which publishes the Chicago Tribune.

"We are delighted to expand our operations in California, particularly with two such outstanding stations in one of the nation's fastest growing markets," said Daniel T. Pecaro, president and chief executive officer of WGN Continental.

The company owns WGN (AM) and WGN-TV, Chicago; KWGN, Denver, and KDAL (AM) and KDAL-TV, Duluth, Minn., as well as cable television properties in Michigan, New Mexico and California's Antelope Valley region.



MICHAEL LEISHNOV

Pie à la Mike^

When Mike Douglas invited rival Phil Donahue to drop in on his talk show, it wasn't just to sit around, admire the furniture and shoot the bull. Instead, the men matched their macho at assorted skills like basketball, rope-skipping and pie dough rolling. In the serenading event of what they billed as the "Talk-

Show Olympics," each sang *Feelings* —to a chicken. Then, for a closer, Douglas demonstrated the ancient TV art of smashing a pie in a guest's face. Quickly recovering, the usually more dignified Donahue returned the flavor, explaining: "Well, Mike, I've always wanted to be just like you."

Daily Herald - Arlington Heights, Ill. August 21, 1978

Barbara Kavanski— Alex Burkholder



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Burkholder

Barbara Kavanski of Hoffman Estates and Alex Burkholder of Chicago were married July 22 in St. Raymond's Church, Mount Prospect. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kavanski, Moline, and the groom is the son of the late Ernest and Mary Burkholder.

The bride chose her sister, Patricia Reynolds, Moline, as matron of honor. Dorie Zahnle and Rose Koe, both of Arlington Heights, were bridesmaids.

Alex's nephew, Robert Nicholson, Chicago, served as best man with James Disch, Mount Prospect, and Lou Limper, Chicago, as groomsmen.

The newlyweds are living in Hoffman Estates. Barbara received a bachelor's degree from Marycrest College, Davenport, Iowa, and a master's from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. She is a teacher at South Junior High School, Arlington Heights. Alex re-

ceived bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Northwestern University. He is a TV news producer for WGN Continental Broadcasting Co., Chicago.

Chicago Tribune

Friday, August 4, 1978

AFBE camp: Basketball, books

By Fred Mitchell

CHICK SHERRER had an idea it might work.

All he needed was some volunteers to help develop his program, some financial backing, and about 100 inner-city youths who could play some basketball.

Finding the basketball players was no problem. The money and the volunteers took time, but they materialized. Now, what Sherrer has under his guidance is the most satisfying job he could envision. He is the president of the Athletes For Better Education in Chicago.

After 11 years as a teacher and coach, Sherrer felt restricted in reaching young men on a one-to-one basis. He and former Bulls' forward Bob Love had conducted several basketball clinics around the area, "but we found it frustrating walking into a kid's life for just one day."

SO, WITH THE help of Love [now national executive director] and the late Harlem Globetrotter Leon Hillard, Sherrer took off on a dream and developed it into a summer camp that places emphasis on academic excellence as well as athletic development.

The camp at Lake Forest College represents only a part of the 236 "quality" follow-up hours the high school standouts receive during the year.

"Everything we do here in camp is related," said Sherrer, a former instructor at the University of Chicago and Northwestern. "The kids spend time in the classroom here, receive an hour of counseling, listen to some of the nation's top collegiate coaches, and play basketball two hours every night. We plan to take the program nationally, but our home base will always be in Chicago."

The need for the program [the only one of its type in the country] was reflected in the profile of the first 100 players taken into the program. Forty-four were members of families on public aid, 43 had no father, the average family income was \$6,500, and the average family included six members.

"AND OUT OF THAT group, we placed 100 per cent of our 43 seniors in institutions of higher learning—21 on full rides," Sherrer said. "That group's grade-point

average before our program was 1.8 [on 4.0 scale for an A] and after a year with us the average went up to 2.5."

A critical factor in the success of the organization is the dedicated staff that devotes year-round attention. Forrest Harris, a former National Basketball Association official, works full time with AFBE, "because it's satisfying to see young men learn skills and attitudes such as loyalty and pride."

Former Northwestern basketball player Don Jackson is an advisory board director along with WGN-TV newscaster Merri Dee, Standrod Carmichael is an administrator on the staff, and consultants Robert Cahill, Frank DuBois, and Herbert Hrebic wrote a special 200-page textbook to aid the athletes' reading and writing skills.

The staff writes up a profile on each young man and makes it available to colleges across the country. The charge is \$200.

"I HAVEN'T SEEN anything like this program in the country, and I do a lot of traveling for speaking engagements," said Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton, who volunteered his time to speak Wednesday. "I just like seeing kids like this get a chance to make it—a second chance. Of course, we coaches get a chance to see some of the area's top players perform, but our primary objective is not to recruit here. I think this is a great program."

"No way you're going to save all these kids," said former Bulls player Clem Haskins, an assistant coach at Western Kentucky. "But we need to help any way we can. Recruiting is a dirty word, don't let anyone kid you about that. I'm honest with our recruits, but so many of them don't know anything about college."

RALLY FOR HUGE COLUMBUS PARADE

BY ANTHONY SORRENTINO

An enthusiastic and impressive group of community leaders pledged their wholehearted support to Patrick S. De Moon, the 1978 Columbus Day Parade Chairman, at the July 14 meeting of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans.

"I am very proud to be chairman of this year's Parade," De Moon told the gathering, JCC members and Parade workers. "With your help, past experience and expertise, we will have an outstanding Parade on October 9th."

THE PARADE Chairman stated he especially looks forward to the active support of Congressman Frank Annunzio, Honorary Chairman of the Parade; Dr. James F. Greco, President of the JCCIA, and James E. Coli, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

Jerome A. Cosentino, last year's Parade Chairman and now Democratic Candidate for State Treasurer in the November Elections, also pledged his support, in a message delivered at the meeting by his secretary, Phyllis Di Frisco.

Brief reports from each chairman of the sub-committees indicated that the plans and promotion of the Parade are moving ahead on schedule.

Mrs. Theresa Petrone, Theme Co-Ordinator, reported that this year's theme is entitled: "Portals of History." She is researching the great contributions of Italians for the story to be depicted on the floats and to be narrated on television by Domenick Di Frisco.

MARCO DE STEFANO, the able and indefatigable Parade Marshal, who has organized and prepared the logistics for

the event since the JCCIA took up its sponsorship almost 20 years ago, reported that permits have been secured and the cooperation of Mayor Bilandic's staff at City Hall has been assured. Joseph Tolitano, Vice President of the JCCIA, will serve as Assistant Parade Marshal.

Since State Street is under construction for the Mall, De Stefano noted, there is a question at this time whether the Parade will be on Michigan Ave. or Dearborn St.

Another highlight of the meeting was the introduction of Pat Pisano by Float Personnel Chairman Lawrence Spallitta. Pisano was selected by the Young Adult Division to represent Christopher Columbus in the Parade.

Fred Mazzei, the dapper and efficient Chairman of the Queen Contest, and his able co-chairman Josephine Bianco, stated that from the applications already received they expect more than 100 young ladies of Italian Heritage, 18 to 25 years of age, will join in the Queen Contest competition. Deadline is Sept. 15, and the queen will be selected by a panel of judges on Sept. 24 at the Radisson Chicago.

LOUIS RAGO, Chairman of the Bands & Marching Group, reported the Columbus Day Parade is considered so prestigious that high school bands and other musical groups are very eager to participate. He assured the Parade Chairman that he and his committee will select the best musical units in the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

Above is quite an honor for **PAT PISANO**, who has just recently joined the WGN "family" as a Mail Messenger.



Bozo the clown, (Bob Bell), greets the audience with his familiar "Hi boys and girls."

Bozo buoys spirits of young and old

By CAROL MUELLER

Breathes there a mother with soul so dead; who never to herself has said: "Thank goodness it's noon, and—Bozo's Circus is on the air!"

For almost 17 years those magic words have summoned Chicago area kiddies to their TV sets and signaled an hour of blessed relaxation for their moms. Bozo's Circus, one of the most enduring and endearing of children's television programs, will mark its 17th anniversary in September and its popularity shows no signs of flagging.

One reason for the continuing success of the Channel 9 favorite is its spontaneity. Bozo's Circus is that broadcasting rarity, a live show. "Almost nothing is live now but Bozo," says the show's producer, Allen Hall, who began with the program at its inception in 1961 as director, left in 1968 to free lance with other stations, and returned five years ago as the producer.

"THE PRODUCER'S JOB comes before the day of production, gathering all the elements of the show," says Hall, who hangs it all together from his small, cluttered office at the WGN-TV station on Chicago's northwest side. With the help of an assistant producer, he screens and books talent, writes the "sticks" (comedy routines per-

formed by Bozo and Cookie), arranges for games and prizes, and attends to the myriad tasks connected with producing a live show 250 times a year.

And the fact that bozo's circus is live necessitates making "instantaneous decisions you can't call back," according to Hall. He recalls, for instance, the only time he ever stopped the show—when the news of President Kennedy's assassination came through and he switched to a network station to pick up the latest reports.

There have also been medical emergencies among cast members that required instant accommodation. Like the day Cookie (Roy Brown) had a mild heart attack just before show time; or the time Bozo (Bob Bell) had an appendectomy. And two years ago Ringmaster Ned (Ned Locke) retired, and Frazier Thomas was moved in as "circus manager" along with his perennial sidekick, Garfield Goose.

Though plenty of unexpected things have happened on Bozo's circus, Hall emphatically denies one particular story, circulated widely a few years ago, about the kid who purportedly cussed out Bozo and/or made an obscene gesture when he missed a bucket during the Grand Prize Game. "It never happened. I couldn't believe it when I heard that story. I was there and it just never happened!" says the producer, throwing up his hands in exasperation.

"IT'S A PRESSURE cooker, I guess," concedes Hall about his job. "We're meeting a commitment every day." The Bozo show, however, is not Al Hall's only commitment. A man with an extensive background in both radio and TV, he also produces Cromie's Circle, Robert Cromie's weekly interview show, stands in for Channel 9 sports producer Arnie Harris for Bulls, Blackhawks, Cubs and Sox game broadcasts, coordinates other projects for Channel 9 and teaches TV production at Roosevelt University.

Hall and community commitments also count with Hall. Married for 20 years, he and his wife have lived in Glenview since 1965 where he has been active in a variety of civic programs. He served on the school board caucus of District 39, helped form the Glen-Aire property owners association, served as co-chairman of the bicycle safety committee and two years ago was awarded the Village of Glenview's public safety award.

As the father of a teenaged daughter, Al Hall is sensitive to parental concerns about children's television programming. "I can't argue with the current brouhaha about kids' programs nationwide. There's too much syndication, but I think Channel 9 has selected its shows responsibly.

"I am upset," he adds, "about the F.T.C.'s possible banning of commercials (on children's shows). This might signal the demise of children's TV. People want Utopia, but they have to realize that the premise of TV in this country is that advertising pays the bills. I think the problem is that so many parents don't want to say no to their children."

ON BOZO'S CIRCUS, however, kids are king and the show is geared to making its young audience happy. Important contributors to the youngsters' delight are the two audience participation games played on the show each day. One is a team game, usually involving at least 10 or 12 kids who are chosen before the show begins. "We try in all games to be completely fair, award equal prizes and choose players of the same age. The age selection depends on the game, but we limit all games to children 12 or younger," says Hall.

The other game, the popular Grand Prize Game, involves a boy and girl chosen at random from the audience via the "magic arrows." Both are given the opportunity to throw a ball into six buckets, each one farther away than the next, and the prizes get bigger with each succeeding bucket, culminating in a bike for bucket No. 6.

As all Bozo watchers know, bucket No. 1 is a "gimme." "That's the only thing we rig. They always win bucket No. 1," says Hall with a grin. "Some child development experts have criticized us for this, but we like to make the kids feel important."

Apparently the policy has paid off, because the Chicago Bozo's Circus marches on long after others have folded their tents.



Clock watching is a way of life for Hall during the show and, as the expression on his face indicates, time's a wastin'. (Staff photo by Jon Langham)

Live telecast means live off-air problems

It is 10:30 a.m. in the studio at WGN-TV and rehearsals for Bozo's Circus are underway. The room itself is surprisingly small, high-ceilinged but long and narrow; not at all the way it appears to the television audience.

Frazier Thomas wanders around the set in shirtsleeves, rehearsing portions of his Garfield Goose show. "Boz" and Cookie (and this is the only way Al Hall addresses or refers to them) are on the set in full make-up and costume, preparing to go over the two comedy routines scheduled for today's show.

BY 11 A.M. THE "cast of thousands" (200 hundred ticket holders who will be crowded into six rows of bleacher seats along the side of the studio) is eagerly gathering outside the closed doors of the studio. Assistant director Scott Reid goes out to choose the children for the group game, selecting kids who appear to be the right age for today's activity, a relay race riding plastic inchworms. Though moms are eager for their child to be selected, says Reid, some children hang back and are afraid.

After the chosen youngsters have run through a quick rehearsal of the game they will be playing, the doors are opened and the audience files in. At 11:45 a.m. Al Hall grabs a mike and steps in front of the crowd to begin the warm-up.

"How are you this morning?" he asks. "Fine!" they shout.

"**TODAY YOU HAVE** to have more fun, more laughs, more giggles, than you've had in the seven years since you've had the tickets!" he tells them, drawing an appreciative laugh.

Not five minutes before air time a little boy wanders out onto the set with tears streaming down his face. He is one of the children chosen to play the game and suddenly he is scared. Unfazed, Hall puts his arm around the boy, has a short chat with him and sends him back to his seat. Whatever has been said, it works, because later the boy is all smiles as he appears, on cue, to ride his inchworm with the other players.

THE PROGRAM LEADS off, as always, with a cartoon during which Bozo, Cookie and Frazier Thomas chat with and entertain the studio audience.

As the show progresses, Allen Hall paces, his eyes constantly on the clock. There is little margin for error with a live broadcast, and the program must run according to schedule and conclude promptly at 12:55 p.m. The day's circus act, a red-headed equilibrist who does balancing feats on a high trapeze, runs a little long. So does one of the clowns' comedy routines.

"C'mon, Boz; c'mon, c'mon, c'mon!" mutters Hall, with his eyes glued to the clock. Just after the halfway point in the show he goes upstairs to the control room to confer with the director, who calls the camera shots watching a bank of monitors high above the set. The decision is made to "kill" one of the cartoons to compensate for lost time.

THE HIGH POINT of the show is the Grand Prize Game, and the magic arrows, controlled by a wave of Hall's hand, stop on an 8-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy. Before playing, each reaches into Bozo's Drum to pick the name of an at-home player who will win identical prizes. There are 150,000 cards and letters in the drum that come from a radius of 600 miles, says Hall.

Finally it is time for the show's finale; the Grand March. The band strikes up the Familiar music and the boys and girls and moms and dads file out, row by row. The show they have waited for years to see is over, but as they walk past the studio monitor it is interesting to note that everyone—everyone—is smiling.

—Carol Mueller



The producer of Bozo's Circus, Al Hall, deals with every aspect of the show—including kids with stage fright. Here he reassures tearful youngster who has been chosen to play a game and is suddenly experiencing cold feet

Sports people

Old voice of Bulls recycled

Jack Fleming, once the radio voice of the Bulls, will be back this winter, replacing Lorn Brown on the basketball team's telecasts over WGN-TV (Ch. 9), and Brown understands.

"It was a professional decision, and I wish them well," said Brown. "They wanted somebody who wasn't associated with another pro club in town, and I'm identified with the White Sox. . . that's 162 games a year."

WGN-TV, in the second year of a three-year contract to televise a minimum of 20 Bull road games plus playoffs, is retaining color man Johnny Kerr to work with Fleming, who was replaced on radio five years ago by Jim Durham.

A WGN-TV spokesman said Brown was on a list of announcers sent to the Bulls for perusal but not on the approved list of three returned by the team. The station then hired Fleming.

That explains it: Los Angeles Times columnist Jim Murray wasn't surprised by that fight nice-guy Steve Garvey and Don Sutton of the Dodgers got into last weekend after Sutton said he thought Reggie Smith, and not Garvey, was the team's best player. Murray has long been suspicious of Mr. Clean because he's just not nasty enough, so he hypothesizes about what terrible things Garvey might do in addition to beating up on an occasional teammate.

"Maybe he's (Garvey) the Hillside Strangler. Possibly he robs poor boxes, or gets his kicks stoning canaries," Murray writes. "Is he on a wanted poster somewhere? Does he start brush fires? Steal jewels? Did he start the Johnstown Flood?"

Murray doesn't really think Garvey does any of those things and that, he says, is precisely the first baseman's problem. At worst, Murray speculates, Garvey "smiles too damn much, or hogs all the soap in the shower."

And Murray doesn't like Sutton picking on Steve. "Even a murderer gets the right to the evidence against him," says Murray. "Garvey would be better off if he was part of the (Charles) Manson gang."

Surgery for Stingley: The New England Patriots' Darryl Stingley, paralyzed since he was injured Aug. 12 in an exhibition game against the Oakland Raiders, underwent surgery Wednesday in Castro Valley, Calif., to repair damaged cervical vertebrae.

A Patriot spokesman said Stingley's doctors were "pleased" with the spinal fusion and with Stingley's condition. Asked about Stingley's football future, the spokesman said: "Nobody knows—not even the doctors."

A tough game: If football is a brutal game, "we shouldn't play it," says Bear Bryant, who obviously intends to continue coaching Alabama teams to play the game.

"Why hell no, I don't think it's a brutal game," said 273-time winner Bryant in response to a question on the subject. "It's a tough game. If it wasn't, you couldn't get enough uniforms for all the people who wanted to play it."

"It's a contact sport, but I don't think that anybody wants to hurt anybody."

Moore recovering: Former boxing champion Archie Moore suffered a broken leg and a back injury in an automobile accident Aug. 3 in Nigeria, but latest word from the African nation is that he is less seriously hurt than first believed.

"He definitely does not have a severe spine injury or a broken back as first reports indicated," said Harold Jackson, U. S. consul, by telephone to Moore's family in San Diego from Lagos, Nigeria. "He may have some sort of disc injury, but his wife believes it is only a severe sprain and. . . she says he is able to move around in bed and sit up on one elbow."

Moore, whose wife suffered a hand injury and broken rib in the accident, will be flown to Nova Scotia next weekend. Moore, believed to be 64, has been in Nigeria the last two years training the country's Olympic boxing team.

Sonic boom: Though he has been peddling himself to the highest bidder for the last two months, Marvin Webster is seen these days around Seattle working out with his old SuperSonic teammates.

And he had a recent luncheon date with Sam Schulman that the principal Seattle owner pronounced "cordial and nice." Schulman added "I think Marvin wants to play in Seattle; within reason, he will, and I'll do everything in my power to put it within reason."

Webster's best offers are from the Sonics and the New York Knicks. Neither has an edge, according to agent Larry Fleisher.