

# *Closed Circuit* THE WGN FAMILY LETTER

\* With permission of Broadcasting Publications, Inc.

November 17, 1978



**"THE IMMIGRANTS" WORLD PREMIERES ON WGN TELEVISION 9  
MONDAY & TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 & 21**

Operation Prime Time's Fourth Production

The four-hour two-part Operation Prime Time presentation of Howard Fast's "THE IMMIGRANTS" will have its world premiere on WGN Television 9 Monday and Tuesday evenings, November 20 and 21, from 8-10pm.

The mammoth 3.2 million dollar production of "THE IMMIGRANTS" tells the story of an ambitious young fisherman who eventually becomes a shipping tycoon with a shrewd and cunning wife and a wise, adoring Chinese mistress. It is based on the Howard Fast novel which was on the New York Times hardback best-seller list for twenty-two weeks earlier this year and is now on the best-seller lists once again -- this time as a paperback.

"THE IMMIGRANTS" stars Stephen Macht, Sharon Gless and Aimee Eccles and guest stars Richard Anderson, Ina Balin, Lloyd Bochner, Kevin Dobson, Michael Durrell, Roddy McDowall, Kathleen Nolan, Pernell Roberts, John Saxon, Yuki Shimoda, Susan Strasberg, Barry Sullivan, Aharon Ipale and Michele Marsh.

WGN Television 9 will present a special "Encore Performance" of "THE IMMIGRANTS" on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, November 29 and 30, also from 8-10 pm.

FIFTH ANNUAL IHSA FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS  
TO BE TELECAST LIVE BY WGN TELEVISION 9

All Five Classes Decided on November 24 and 25

For the fifth consecutive year, WGN Television 9 will originate and televise all five championship games of the Illinois High School Association's Football Play-off Series, held on November 24 & 25 at Hancock Stadium on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal.

Sportscasters FLOYD BROWN, MIKE PYLE and BOB STARR will alternate with the play-by-play and color commentary during the 12 1/2 hour football marathon in the two-day period.

On Friday, November 24, television coverage begins at 12 noon with the Class 1-A play-off, followed immediately by the Class 2-A contest. The Class 3-A championship will be played at 7:30 pm.

The Saturday, November 25, match-ups begin at 1 pm. with the Class 4-A play-off. The Class 5-A contest is set for 7 pm.

The competing teams in each class will be decided on Saturday, November 18, in the semi-final series.

Pairing in each of the five classes is based on the average conference enrollment in the 540 football-playing schools of the IHSA. Categories are:

- Class 1-A -- schools with enrollment up to 300;
- Class 2-A -- schools with enrollment of 301 to 518;
- Class 3-A -- schools with enrollment of 519 to 988;
- Class 4-A -- schools with enrollment of 989 to 1869;
- Class 5-A -- schools with enrollment of 1870 and above.

(more)

All three WGN Television 9 sportscasters covering the games bring an experienced outlook to the IHSA championships. Brown will be making his fifth straight appearance on the play-by-play duties; Pyle, a former all-pro lineman for the Chicago Bears, will provide most of the color commentary for the games; and Starr, a former sportscaster in Bloomington and Peoria and presently a member of the radio-television team for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, will also handle play-by-play.

Channel 9 will utilize more than 20 staff members, four color television cameras, slo-mo and stop-action recorders, and the WGN million-dollar mobile van to capture all of the excitement in each play-off game.

The telecast of the complete lineup of championship games will be sponsored, in part, by the Illinois Bell Telephone Company and True Value Hardware.

-30-

#### INTV BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Robert J. Wormington, President & General Manager of KBMA-TV Kansas City, has been elected Chairman of the Association of Independent Television Stations (INTV), and SHELDON COOPER, Vice president, Director of Broadcasting of WGN Continental Broadcasting Company, Chicago named Vice Chairman.

Crawford P. Rice, Executive Vice President, Gaylord Broadcasting Company, Tampa, has been re-elected as Secretary. William C. McReynolds, Executive Vice-President, Meredith Broadcasting, New York, has been elected Treasurer.

The Board meeting was held October 25th-26th in Scottsdale, Arizona. Former Chairman, Leavitt J. Pope, President, WPIX Inc., New York, will continue as a non-voting member for one year.

Re-elected to their INTV positions were Herman W. Land, President; and Nicki Goldstein, Vice President, Operations.

Happy Birthday to:

Bill Phillips	-- November 21	Norm Potash	-- November 29
Roberta Leblang	-- November 21	Rita Sorci	-- November 30
Barbara Shikami	-- November 21	James Matthews	-- December 1
Al Diicova	-- November 22	Muriel Furlong	-- December 1
Chuck Russell	-- November 23	Steve Schickel	-- December 1
Charlotte O'Brien	-- November 25	Perry Wharton	-- December 1
Gerry Rooney	-- November 25	Bob Perkins	-- December 2
Jean Bernardino	-- November 25	Clif Mercer	-- December 2
George Hooker	-- November 26	Pat Golata	-- December 2
Bob Splithoff	-- November 26	Jackie Jacobson	-- December 3
Brian Eyerly	-- November 26	Jack Harridge	-- December 3

---

Send GET WELL WISHES to: Dolores Koltz and Dick Jungers at home.

Also: Arla Ward  
Columbus Hospital  
2520 N. Lakeview Avenue (759-1)  
Chicago, Ill.

Arla thanks everyone for their cards and get well wishes.

"Special Note of Thanks" from Dick Jungers ----

To each of you that took the time and trouble to sign my "giant get well card," may I offer my profound thanks and deep appreciation for your individual thoughtfulness.

This came as quite a surprise and did much to boost my spirits during a difficult period. Many, many thanks.

A special thanks to JOHN CHOYNACKI for the terrific art work.

---

Note from Charles (Mac) McConnell -- retiree '75

"Inez and I just returned from a drive to New Orleans where we were the guests of Lloyd Ellis, guitarist with Pete Fountain. We stayed at Lloyd's picturesque apartment in the French Quarter. Lloyd and I were together in WWII.

We celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary with a dinner at 'le cafe bromeliad' in the Hilton and later were the guests of Lloyd and Pete in the "Pete Fountain Club" on the 3rd level of the Hilton. Pete dedicated the entire show to us ending the show by having his excellent band sing: "Happy Anniversary - etc." during which the house lights were out and we were in a spot light. Of course, we stood up and took a bow. Later, about half of the audience came by to congratulate us. It was a most memorable evening! At our get together with Pete after the show he said: "Inez... any woman who could put up with a musician, particularly an arranger, for 51 years deserves a lot of credit." I certainly agree! I'm sure all of you who know me will also agree --- right?"

Mac

---

NOTE --- FREE PIZZA

STEVE QUAST, account executive/radio has invited everyone to sample a new advertiser's CHI-CHI PIZZA on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 at 4:30 in the cafeteria. CHI CHI PIZZA is a locally owned food operation. Everyone is invited.....

## FLOYD BROWN TAKES PART IN GROUNDBREAKING FOR ELGIN EASTER SEAL CENTER

FLOYD BROWN presided as emcee at a ground-breaking and naming ceremony at the Elgin Easter Seal Center's facilities site. Congressman Robert McClory was among the dignitaries.

The Jane Shover Rehabilitation Center, directed by Mrs. Peggy Muetterties, dedicated the new site to the late Jane Shover Dickey for her dedicated work for the rehabilitation of the disabled.

---

### NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations and best wishes to ARLEIGH ERICKSON (TV transmitter engineer) and his wife, PAMELA, upon the birth of their son, JOHN ARLEIGH. John was born on November 8th at Copley Memorial Hospital in Aurora, weighing 11 lbs. 15 oz. John joins his three year old sister, Karen, in completing the Erickson family circle.

---

### SYMPATHY

Deepest sympathy to Bob Shonerock on the death of his mother, Mrs. Mamie Shonerock. Sympathy also to Walter Salber on the death of his father, Ben, and to David Bowen, on the death of his grandfather.

---

BAKE SALE - OUR BAKE SALE WILL BE DECEMBER 4th - STARTING AT 9:30 A.M. Plan on baking your favorite cake or candy. It certainly will be appreciated. Proceeds going to Wally's Neediest Christmas Fund. Let's double what we did last year..... take a little time out on the evening of December 3rd and bake your favorite item for our sale. See special printed sheet in this issue of paper.

---

For Sale: WEBCORE REGENT/CORONET STEREO TAPE RECORDER with TWO MATCHING SPEAKERS: \$75.00 - Doug. ext. 346 - after 4 p.m. (Great Christmas gift)

For Sale: Two L60-15 General tires mounted on two western mags with bolts and locks. Like new \$200.00. Ext. 215 - Ramon

For Sale: 1972 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL MARK IV - Power windows, power seats, cruise control. 58,000 miles, mint condition - \$3,200. Ext. 215 - Ramon

For Sale: 30" CHINA HAND PAINTED LAMPS. Collectors item. Set of two - \$250.00  
2 new real hair wigs - 1 blond, one red. Will be styled at no extra cost. Shoulder length. Hand tied. \$275.00 each.  
Chafing Dish (New) \$26.00 - Also pr. andirons for fireplace - \$17.00  
Portable room air purifier - \$20.00. Also clothing for children.  
Morton Grove area. after 6 p.m. 966-1188.

---

### RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Cranberry Mold (Quick & Easy--- delicious with turkey or ham)

2 - 3 oz. pkg. Raspberry Jello  
1 can Cranberry Sauce  
1 can (1 lb. 4 oz.)Crushed Pineapple  
Dissolve jello in two cups boiling water. Add cranberry sauce and stir until sauce is dissolved. Refrigerate and just before it sets -- drain crushed pineapple and stir into mold. Refrigerate overnight.

---

Ray Rayner says: "Sometimes love starts beside a babbling brook -- and ends up over a leaky kitchen sink."

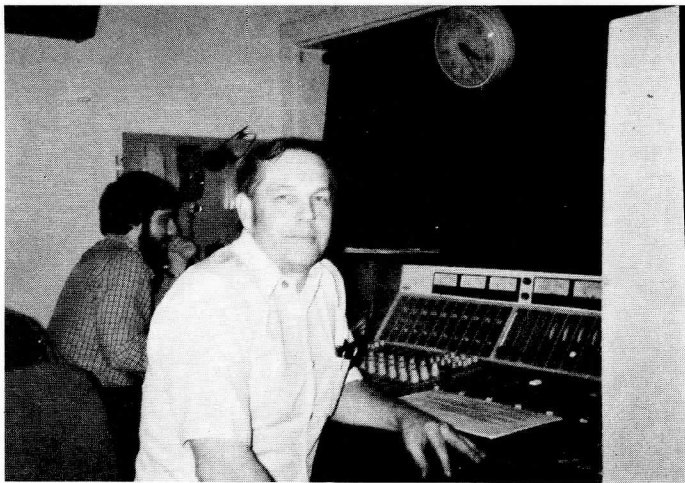
COMPANY ANNIVERSARIES -- CONGRATULATIONS!

STUART SWANSEN --- TV Engineer -- 10 years - November 3

BILL HITCHCOCK -- Director of Traffic Systems -TV  
30 years - November 9



Chuck Seatsema - 30 years - November 8th  
TV Engineer

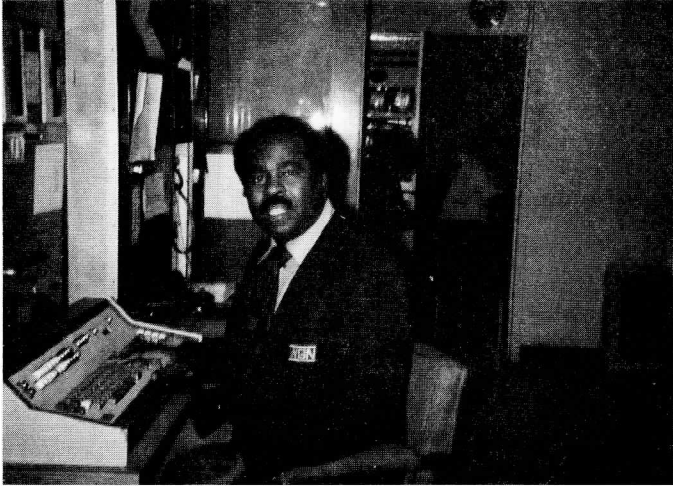


Ken Gill - 10 years - November 6th  
Radio Engineer



Jack Taylor - 20 years - November 9th  
TV/Radio Newscaster

COMPANY ANNIVERSARIES -- CONGRATULATIONS!



Joe Smith - 5 years - November 12  
TV Engineer



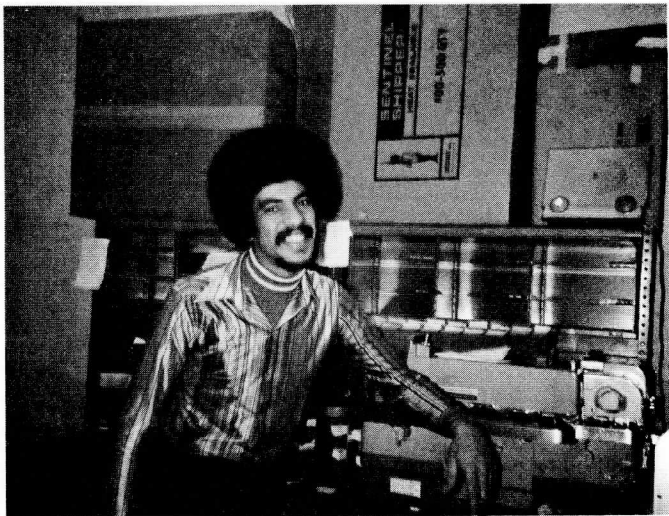
Marj Bray - 15 years - November 17  
Secretary/Community Affairs



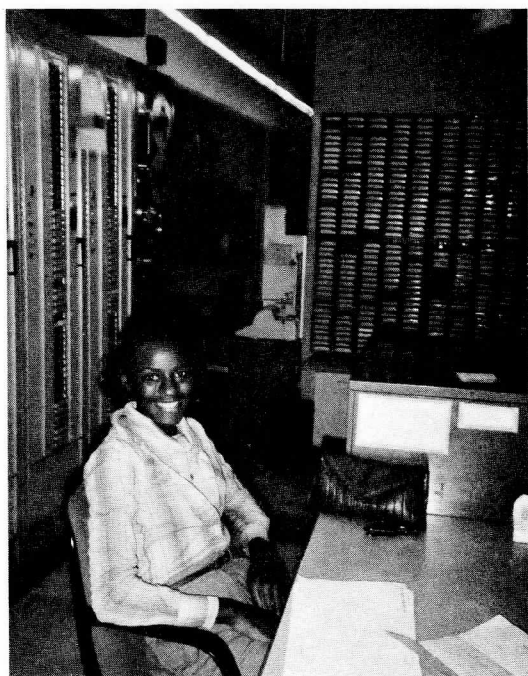
Dan Seltzer - 5 years - November 18  
Projectionist



WELCOME TO THE WGN "FAMILY"

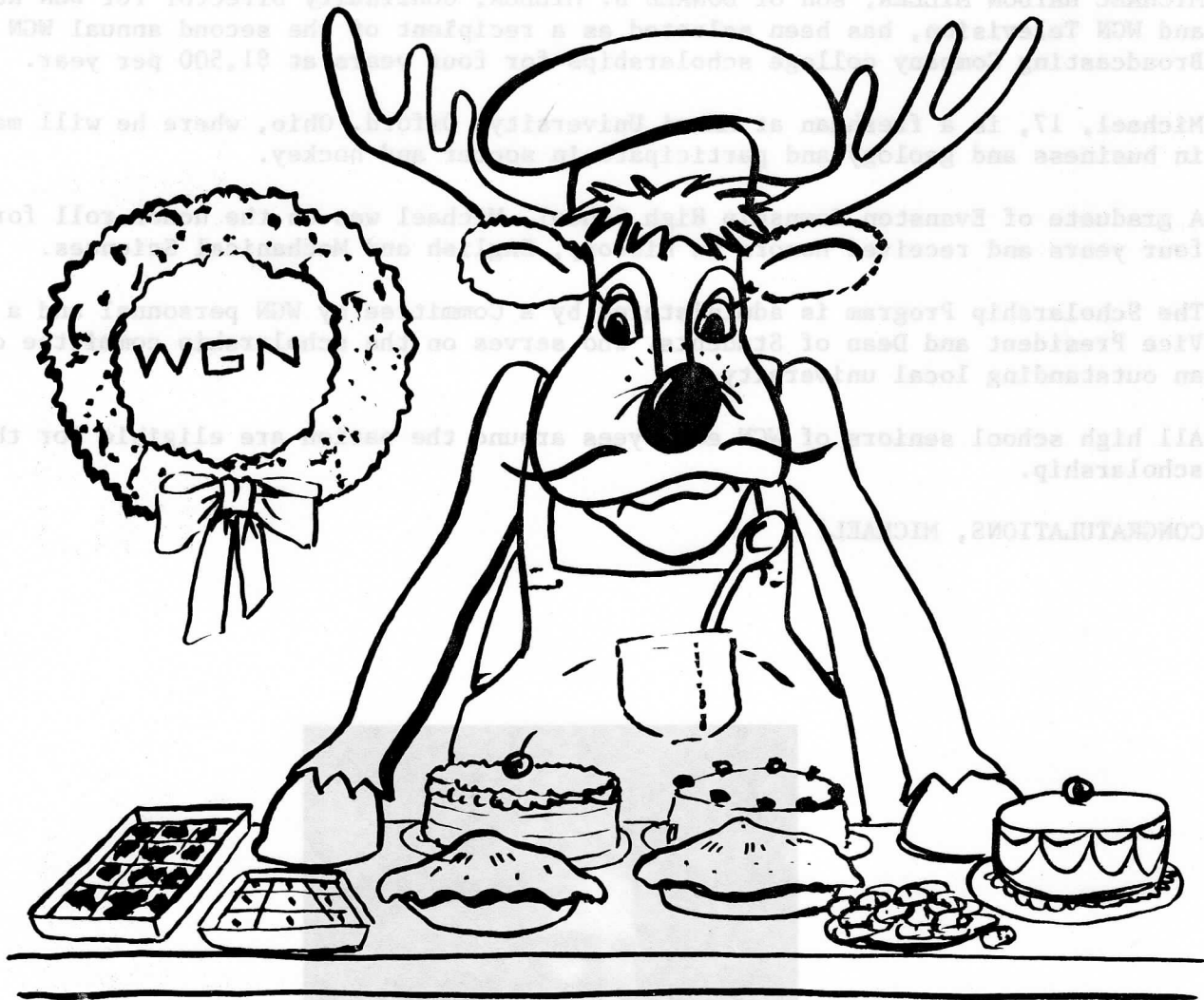


*Sol Sostre  
Indoctrination/Trainee*



*Shellie Rogers  
Radio Logger*

# EMPLOYEE BAKE SALE



Monday, December 4th

9:30 am – 11:30 am

PROCEEDS TO

“NEEDIEST KIDS CHRISTMAS FUND”

For information, call:

Joan – ext. 262

Jean – ext. 477

Muriel – ext. 201

Norine – ext. 417

SON OF DONALD H. MILLER RECIPIENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

MICHAEL HAYDON MILLER, son of DONALD H. MILLER, Continuity Director for WGN Radio and WGN Television, has been selected as a recipient of the second annual WGN Broadcasting Company college scholarships for four years at \$1,500 per year.

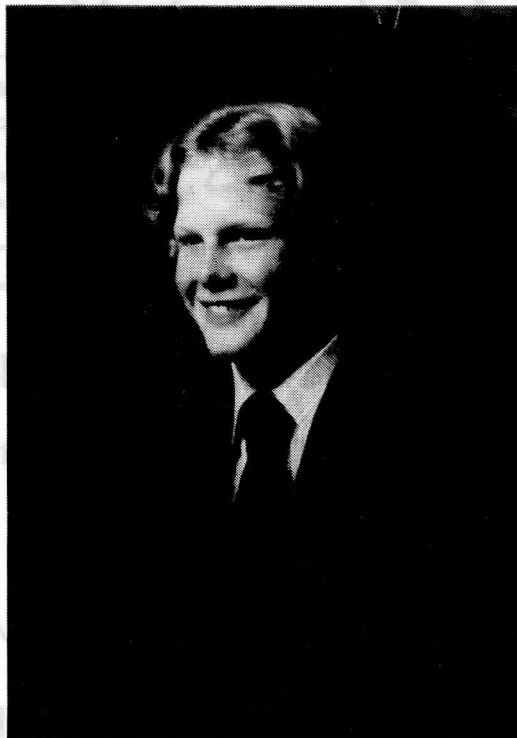
Michael, 17, is a freshman at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, where he will major in business and geology and participate in soccer and hockey.

A graduate of Evanston Township High School, Michael was on the honor roll for four years and received honors in History, English and Mechanical Sciences.

The Scholarship Program is administered by a Committee by WGN personnel and a Vice President and Dean of Students, who serves on the scholarship committee of an outstanding local university.

All high school seniors of WGN employees around the nation are eligible for the scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL!



CRUSADE OF MERCY

Joe and Ken are from different backgrounds, but have one thing in common. They benefit from day care services supported by the Crusade of Mercy.

Joe is four. His mother, a clothing store clerk, was on welfare after Joey's father left, providing no support. The mother obtained her job after completing a training program and soon expects to afford to move from a Chicago ghetto.

Ken lives in a suburb, is five and has a mother who is a legal secretary. She receives some support from Ken's father.

These case histories are from two day care agencies. Both boys are at the centers all day -- allowing their mothers to work and improve their lives, secure in the knowledge that their children are in a safe, nurturing environment. Each pays fees on a sliding scale according to their income.

The urgent need for facilities for day care for young children has been recognized for years. Thought of originally as a service for children whose mothers were forced to work out of economic necessity, it has now been recognized as a service sought after for many different reasons by a wide spectrum of the population.

Some mothers work because money is absolutely needed, others to supplement family income, still others by choice -- for personal development. Whatever the reason, the true beneficiary is the child who receives a good preschool experience that promotes physical, social and emotional development and creates an opportunity for the fostering and strengthening of good parent-child relationships.

(more)

## Day Care -2

The general day care centers are for preschool children (2 to 5 years) and for those of school age (6 to 13 years), who usually attend after school. Besides general day care, some centers offer special day care for children with severe emotional, mental or physical handicaps.

A typical day at a day care center includes time for play, art lessons, story hours, lunch, nap and sometimes field trips. The children also get an opportunity to make friends with their teacher and other adult supervisors.

For underprivileged families, the centers are a haven where the children receive excellent care, healthful food, play and instruction that will prepare them for enrollment in public schools.

The Crusade of Mercy is working to help children such as Joe and Ken help themselves -- help them to prepare for the years ahead. And the Crusade helps their mothers remain employed to better support their families.

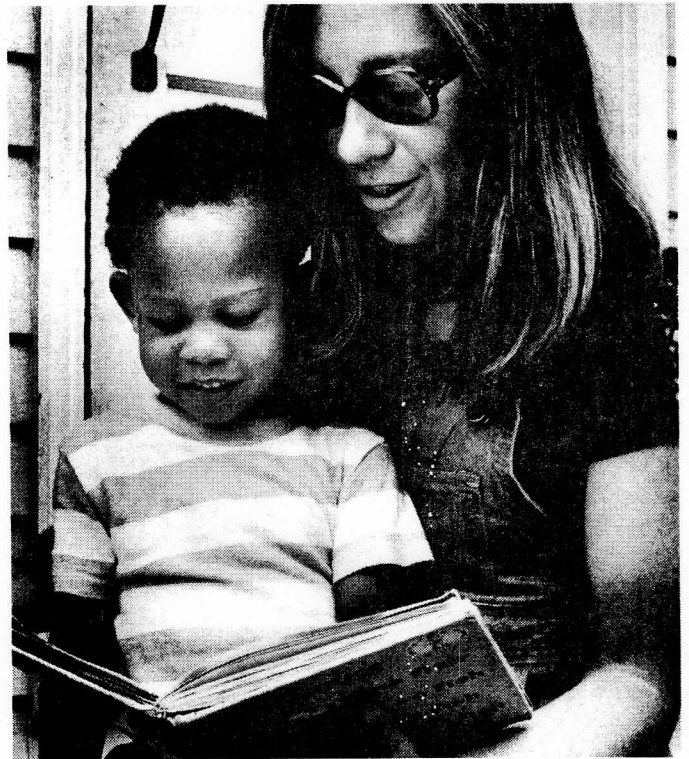


###

**Everyone benefits from Crusade of Mercy services . . .  
children, the elderly, the sick, the handicapped.**

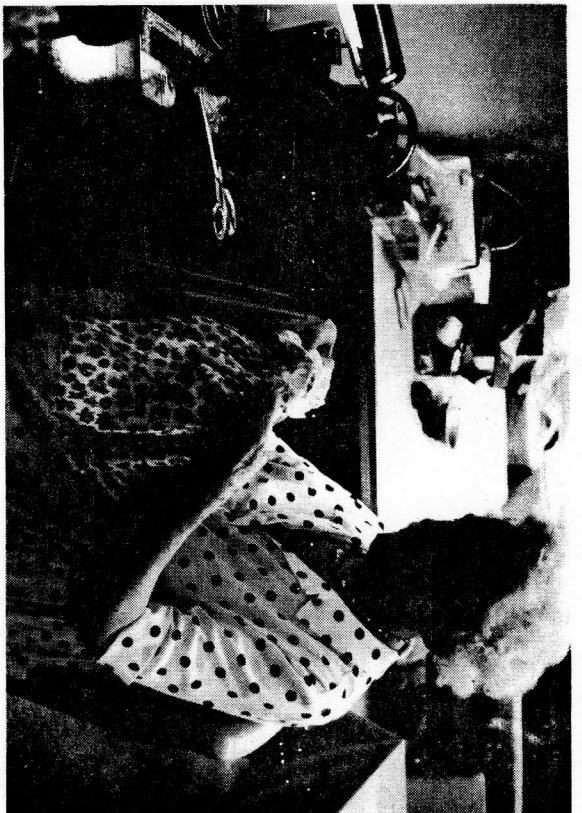


**Can you imagine a world without sound?** Crusade of Mercy-supported services help identify and treat thousands of children and adults with speech or hearing problems. Your Fair Share contribution to the Crusade can make a world of difference.

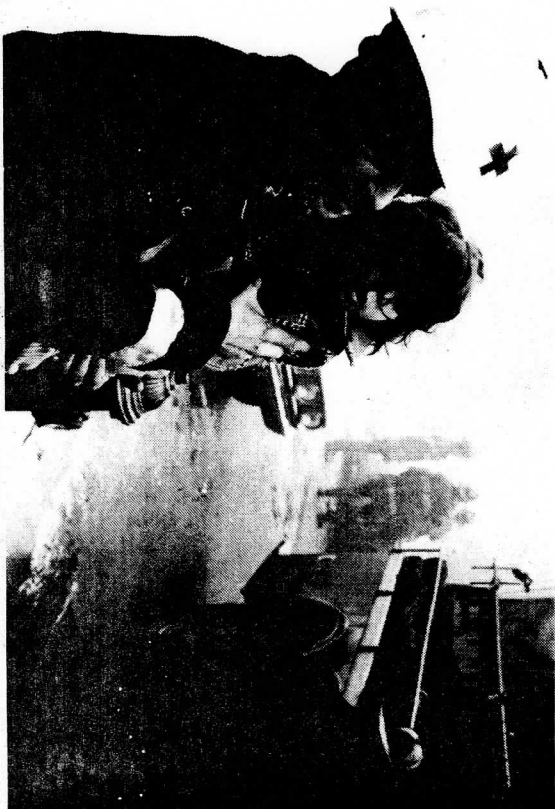


**Crusade-supported day care services** not only give children safe, supervised places to play, they also help those too young for school to learn and grow. The Crusade of Mercy cares about children . . . please pledge your Fair Share.

**Growing old doesn't have to mean growing idle.** Crusade-supported services mean companionship for the elderly through interesting and challenging recreational activities. Support the Crusade of Mercy—it could give someone a new lease on life.



**She might be someone you know . . . maybe someone you love.** Next time there's a fire, tornado or flood, how close will you be? The Mid-America Chapter of the American Red Cross, a partner in the Crusade of Mercy, aids victims of disasters in the metropolitan Chicago area. Pledge your Fair Share to the Crusade . . . it means so much to so many.



# The Lerner TV & Radio Report Skilling brings weather skill to Chicago and WGN



**TOM SKILLING**

the new weekend weather man at **WBBM-TV**. At the same station, Diane Jennings is the director of sales research, coming to the position from Leo Burnett. And still another reporter from Boston joins the **WBBM-TV** crew, Steve Shepard, who joined the station on Oct. 11, Video Forum, on **Diversey**, and **Advent**, the giant screen TV manufacturer, will host a world series party at 7 p.m. with **Chuck Kevin** and **Ernie Banks** as hosts.

**Bill Dailey**, the **Highland Park** resident who started in the **Bob Newhart Show**, will be appearing at **Pheasant Run** through Oct. 29 in "Lover's Leap." **Dailey** attended **Lane High School** and the **Goodman Theater** before joining **WMAQ-TV** as a floor manager, director and writer.

**DeMoe**, a long-time **WGN** employee who assists in gathering the map, charts, etc., which takes all day and then organizes the material for the **WITI** in **Milwaukee**, where he became the best-known weather person in the area.

He worked with a puppet in **Alley Cat**, "who was on the show when I arrived and the people seemed to like Albert so I kept him on." After less than a year, **Albert** and **Tom** were the hottest weather personalities in town.

**Skilling**, a **Lake Shore Drive** resident, has a complete weather station in one bedroom of his apartment and can be called by **WGN** Radio staff daily for a forecast before he arrives at the studios.

Regarding his few years in **Florida**, he said that **Chicago** has "some exciting weather, and the seasons are just delightful. It is boring to have weather calm and hot as in **Florida** all the time. I really love **Chicago**. It's close to my parents in **Sugar Grove**, that's near **West Aurora**, and **WGN-TV** has the best weather equipment with which to work."

**Skilling** predicts this winter will be not as cold as the previous two winters.

always been interested in most, the weather."

**HIGHLAND PARK** resident **Don Mann**, manager of special projects at **WBBM Radio**, will be the chairman of the **Easter Seal Society's Sportsman of the Year** award, honoring **George Halas** on **Wednesday, Nov. 1**, at the **Hyatt Regency, Chicago**. Among the radio and TV personalities appearing at the luncheon will be **Joe McConnell** and **Brad Palmer** of **WBBM Radio** and **Pearlman** of the **WBBM** news team.

**Pat Summerall** will be **MC**. For ticket information, call or write the **Easter Seal Office** at 220 South State Street, 939-5115.

A 28-year veteran of **WBBM, Don Mann** was also named chairman of the **Chicago Diabetes association** luncheon honoring **Fahy Flynn** on **Thursday, Nov. 16**, at the **Hyatt Regency, Chicago**. Ticket information and guest "rosters" will be announced in the coming weeks.

**Phillip Robinson Whitelaw** will be

**By JERRY FIELD**

**TOM SKILLING** is a 26-year-old who has been earning a living as a weatherman for 12 years. **Skilling** is the weather reporter on **WGN-TV** at 10 p.m., two weather watches at 4:55 and 8:55, and is the subject of some good natured ribbing on the **Wally Phillips Show** on **WGN Radio** and soon **Skilling** will be on the **Roy Leonard Show**, also on **WGN Radio**.

**Skilling** rises at 6:30 each morning to check the weather map, which arrives via satellite, and begins to look at the more-than-a-dozen maps, charts and instrument readings to forecast the day's weather and offer a five-day forecast. **Skilling's** latest innovation for the **WGN-TV** viewers will be color radar, which **Skilling** hopes to introduce later this month.

**Born** in **Pittsburgh** and raised in **New Jersey**, **Skilling** attended **West Aurora High School** and, at age 14, asked the local radio station **WKKD** if he could give the weather on weekends.

"I have been interested in the weather ever since I can remember and I worked my way through high school and college doing the weather both on radio and TV," commented **Skilling**. "It's a real dream to be earning a living doing what I have

# High stakes for Robert Urich in 'Vega\$'

By Edie Cohen

HE'S tough and tender. He laughs. He cries. He's virile. Robert Urich, starring as private eye Dan Tanna on ABC's "Vega\$" (Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on ABC-Ch. 7), portrays the character as the antithesis of most television sleuths.

"I don't see Dan Tanna as a macho hero," says Urich. "I feel in a lot of instances, he's a shy kind of guy. He's not that sure of himself.

"I don't feel it's terribly attractive to be always cool, always coming on to the ladies. The show is not 't & a.' That's not enough to keep people watching.

"I want viewers to say, 'Gee, the guy has a kind of sensitivity about him. He can feel bad.'"

One episode even highlights Tanna's sensitivity. He falls in love, and has a relationship with a woman, only to discover later that she is a jewel thief. Distraught about the situation, Tanna cries, an emotion rarely displayed by television's male stars.

But that's how Urich envisioned the moment and how he played the scene. And he's predicting that after that show, America will fall in love with his detective counterpart.

Urich, who worked in the theater before landing roles in episodes of "The FBI," "Gunsmoke," "Kung Fu," "Marcus Welby," and "Owen Marshall," also has starred in the ABC series "Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice," and "S.W.A.T." As Dan Tanna, he improvises many scenes he does with Tony Curtis, who has a recurring role as casino owner Bernie Roth, and Bart Braverman, who plays a reformed hood. Urich lauds his costars.

"It takes a lot of courage to let things play," he says. "But you have to have spontaneity and improvisation. It took five episodes before we learned how to integrate humor into the show through the characters.

"Many of the scenes between Tony and me are touching and warm. That's what separates Dan from other detectives. He can grow as a person. And that's what keeps people coming back.

"I have enough confidence in my ability to remain vulnerable. It's about time we have a series star who isn't always winning fights."

As soon as Urich read the script for the movie special "Vega\$," in which he



The 'Vega\$' lineup: Robert Urich (lower left) stars as Dan Tanna; Judy Landers (top left) portrays Angie; Phyllis Davis is Beatrice; and Tony Curtis costars as Bernie Roth.

starred, he was enamored with the part of Tanna. Appearing simultaneously as a regular in two comedy series, "Soap," starring as tennis pro Peter Campbell, and "Tabitha," playing talk show host Paul Thurston, he was searching for a vehicle that would enable him to show off dramatically. But Urich also wanted the script to possess elements of comedy, as well as action, since he enjoys doing most of his own stunts.

To demonstrate the character as he perceived him, he asked to write his own screen test. Urich penned three pages of monolog that he performed, along with several pages of the original script. He captured the role that inspired the TV series and the opportunity to be an overnight sensation.

Although "Vega\$" has ranked high in the ratings, Urich maintains that it is "premature to call the show a hit. Right from the start, everyone has expected us to be outstanding," he says.

"With all the press we're getting, people will ask 'what's the matter?' if we only get a 37 share.

"I feel like the captain of the Titanic."

For the moment, Urich is riding the wave of success. "Scripts are coming to the house," says the native of Toronto, Ohio, who now resides in North Hollywood with his wife, actress Heather Menzies.

The 31-year-old Urich, who holds a master's degree in communications management from Michigan State University, has always wanted to be an actor. After graduation, though, with no other job prospects, he accepted a position as a sales account executive at WGN Radio in Chicago.

"One day I had to make a choice," Urich says. "After six months I decided I could either be a successful executive or actor."

Since opting for the footlights, Dan Tanna's alter ego has familiarized himself with all facets of production. Preparing for the day when he would ultimately like to become a director, he wants the chance to exercise more creative control over a script. He's also continuing his fourth year of acting classes.

"Any star does more than just say words," observes Urich. "They're involved in aspects people don't know about. It's part of the job of being an artist."





# Walter Saunders

Denver Newspaper

## When Captain Midnight was a corporal

LEROY OLLIGER VEHEMENTLY denies he was standing by with spare parts when Marconi sent his first wireless message.

But when LeRoy Olliger started his broadcasting career, Ma Perkins was known as Little Baby Perkins and Captain Midnight was a corporal.

Ozzie and Harriet didn't know each other well enough to have any TV adventures and the nation didn't even know Lucy, let alone love her. Charlie's Angels? They weren't even twinkles in their daddys' eyes.

Olliger, vice president and program manager of Channel 2, is celebrating his 40th anniversary in broadcasting by retiring. He began his broadcasting career in 1938 as a mail clerk at WGN Radio in Chicago. Olliger actually has 46 years of service with the same company. As a teen-ager, Olliger became a messenger boy for the Chicago Tribune in 1932.



LeRoy Olliger

**I DON'T KNOW WHAT** the folks at KWGN are planning to give Olliger at his retirement party Friday night. Hopefully, it will be more than a watch. The gifts should be appropriate — things like a box of cornstarch and a new accordion.

Cornstarch? That was one of Olliger's favorite staples when he was a leading sound effects expert on WGN Radio during the days of live programming. Olliger will tell you a lot of good sounds can be come out of a box of cornstarch, including the sound of footsteps on snow.

An accordion? If you lived in Chicago in the early '40s, you might have heard the team of Holland engel and LeRoy Olliger profiding live musical entertainment. Olliger was a rhythmic guy with an accordion.

Those are just two of the many jobs Olliger has held during his 40 years with WGN Broadcasting. He also worked as producer an director for many radio and TV shows before coming to Denver as program director in 1966 after WGN purchased Channel 2.

In 1969, Olliger was elected a director of WGN of Colorado, Inc., and was named a vice president of the parent company in 1971.

**OLLIGER IS THE QUIET,** unassuming sort, the type of guy who is reluctant to talk about his career. If you twist his arm, he'll tell you he was a director of "Treetop House," a WGN-TV children's show which won a prestigious Peabody Award in 1963, while Olliger was in charge.

Olliger was also one of the first directors Mike Douglas had when the young performer was doing an audience-participation show in Chicago.

Olliger's career as a producer includes seven years on a highly-rated radio mystery series, "Halls of Fantasy," and 15 years as producer of both the White Sox and Cubs TV and radio games.

Olliger enjoys the nostalgia of the sound-effects days on radio.

WGN in Chicago produced a lot of the old radio shows, including "Jack Armstrong," "Captain Midnight" and "Tom Mix."

"Producing sound effects was a stimulating job — a real challenge," Olliger recalls. "The producers and directors were very fussy about getting realistic sounds. So we worked very a hard it it."

Naturally, not everything worked out as planned. Olliger recalls an episode of "Captain Midnight" in which a character said: "I'm going to shoot you." Olliger fired the gun which contained blanks. But nothing happened.

The actor then said: "I think I'm going to shoot you." Again, Olliger pulled the trigger. Nothing. The actor, a bit exasperated, said: "On second thought, I think I'll stab you." As he uttered those lines, Olliger's gun finally fired. It was probably the noisiest stabbing in Chicago radio history.

**OLLIGER, 61, FEELS** he is retiring "at just the right time."

"My first experience in broadcasting was watching my father build a small wireless. Now we're on the verge of a major electronics breakthrough. But I don't think I could handle all the new technology. But I've seen a lot of changes."

Like many veteran broadcasters, Olliger views modern communications with mixed emotions. "Sure, we're living in a fascinating technological age. But in a way, there's less professionalism.

"A lot of the fun is gone. Too many people think of it as just a job. I've always thought of broadcasting as a fascinating career because something was always happening. What would I do differently? Nothing.

"I've missed the live production which radio and early TV used to provide. When TV was a novelty it was a challenge for broadcasters because so much of it was live. Now, almost everything is in on tape or film. And you can always make changes. Live television made the broadcaster more alert."

Olliger and Lori, his wife of nearly 40 years, will retire in in Sun City, Ariz. Olliger has no special plans except to play a lot of golf.

"I've never tried to write a book. Maybe I'll tackle that if I find a subject," Olliger says.

I already have a title for Olliger — "How to Turn Cornstarch into Snowy Footsteps," which would be the life and times of a radio sound effects man.



