

March

Newsletter



March Newsletter

Issue 2003-2004

**March Meeting
Bala Country Club
March 17, 2004**

**Reception 12:00 p.m.
Lunch 12:30 p.m.
Ratecard \$20.00**

We've got one of the top talkers in Philadelphia as our speaker on March 17. It's Philly Talk Radio's **Michael Smerconish** - Philadelphia lawyer turned political commentator. Trust him to have some pithy comments on the current scene. He is one of the hot properties in radio now subbing for O'Reilly, appearing on CNN, and generally stirring things up wherever interesting talk is required. He was appointed by

George H. W. Bush as regional director of HUD.

The usual comments apply, except WE WILL BE BACK AT BALA on March 17 after a refreshing two months at Williamson's. Meet and greet at 12n and lunch at 12:30.

Please call 610-436-4217 or e-mail morrissam6@aol.com. Do make a reservation as we have to have a count for the meeting.



Michael Smerconish

Inside this issue:

More Happenings	2
And More	2
And....	2

Happenings

Wally Kennedy was terrific, as might be expected, at our February meeting. We had a great crowd who really appreciated the veteran broadcasters' comments.

Again, we were at Williamson's in the GSB Building but please note that next month we will be back to the old stomping grounds at Bala.

We send our heartfelt condolences to the family of **Ed Sciaky** who died a few weeks ago. Ed was only 55 and had been in and out of hospitals for some time. He appeared

to be doing well and was at our January meeting shortly before he was stricken. Wide television and radio coverage chronicled his storied career. He will be missed by all his fellow pioneers. President **Bill Webber** attended services at Goldstein's and says about 1200 people were there to remember Ed. Among them were **Tom Moran, Pierre Robert, Michael Tearson, John DeBella, Harvey in the Morning** and **Bruce Springsteen's drummer**. Ed described himself, no lover of sports, as a non-athletic supporter, and would have en-

joyed the irony of the services on Super Bowl Sunday.

Congratulations to **Dave Roberts**, member and former Person of the Year of the Pioneers of Philadelphia, on having been put on the cover page of the calendar put out by the Buffalo Broadcast Pioneers. Dave (Dave Thomas in Buffalo) was the Captain of Rocketship 7 on WKBW-TV in Buffalo before his career on Channel 6 in Philadelphia. The cover picture celebrates his role as Captain. We also note that **Rich Kellman** who

was with WFIL and WFIL-TV long ago, has been among those who were voted on for the Buffalo Pioneer's Hall of Fame. We gave them Rich, they gave us Dave.

Don't forget your input is our output. Contact Paul Norton with items for the newsletter at 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, e-mail nanort@comcast.net or call 1-302-845-8910.

"He loves nature, in spite of what it did to him."

Forrest Tucker

More Happenings

There must be lots of old tapes out there of Philadelphia legends. If you know of any, please contact **Frank Hogan**.

Rowan University

is allowing the Pioneers to create a center there for artifacts of Philadelphia Broadcasting. Let Frank know about audios, videos or what have you to put in the collection.

Incidentally, **Frank Hogan** who is Vice President of our Club is General Manager of Rowan Radio, 89.7, and they are quite proud that WGLS-FM is celebrat-

And More

Ed Harvey advises...don't wish you were in Florida...Be There. The WCAU 20th Annual Resort Weekend Reunion will be held February 28 and 29, 2004 at Ireland's Inn Beach Resort. "The best kept secret in Ft. Lauderdale." All your favorite CAU folks will be there for dinner 7 pm Saturday the 28th, and brunch Sunday at 10 am. Should be great fellowship and fun. Make reservations by calling Jack at 1-800-347-7776. A block of rooms is being held for CAU.

Welcome new member Jack V. **Buerkle**, Ph.D., Program and Education Consultant at WRTI-FM - NPR. Jack retired in October of 2003. He began his career in 1974.

And.....

We thought that he might never die. But he did on February 18. **Max E. Solomon** died one week after his 78th wedding anniversary to his beloved Matilda. He was 97, and to say that he was a legend is only to diminish what he was to his many friends and fellow Pioneers. There just aren't words. Max began his career when radio began, and began his TV career when TV began. His first sales job was when radio station WIFI was in the rug department at Lit Brothers. The rugs made the acoustics better. He con-

ing 40 years on the air and is now using 750 watts. The student run station will celebrate with special community programming and alumni events.

At 83, **Les Keiter** has retired again. One of our member's, **John Roberts**, far-flung correspondents has sent him a column from a Honolulu newspaper explaining that Lee, who has been active in a number of venues in the tropic paradise for many years, will continue his radio show on KKAK "The General Remem-

We haven't seen **Alan Kalish** in quite awhile and we've discovered that since he sold his agency in 1986. he's been keeping busy consulting. "People keep hiring me," for marketing and advertising advice. Two years ago he started a new software company for ad agencies and marketing departments. He got married after 22 years as a single guy and his woman is a chief executive coach. Their work is their fun, and they have fun together.

Tom Monaghan's 11th Annual Philly Chili Cook-Off will take place at the Manayunk Brewery on March 24. **Diego Castellanos**, Fire Commissioner **Harold**

Castellanos, Fire Commissioner **Harold** continued with the station which became WFIL from the late twenties until he retired to Miami at age 65. Recently he and Matilda returned to Philadelphia to be near 'the children and the grandchildren.' He was with our group of Philadelphia Pioneers as recently as last September when he was with us to hear **Jack Whitaker** speak, and he worked the room as if he'd never been away. Still dapper, and with the smile that was his trademark, all of us will miss him. He had so many wonderful stories. There is

bers." Les interviews sports personalities on that show. Les has been inducted into the Big Five Basketball Hall of Fame as he has in the Hawaii Sports Hall of Fame and probably others. In retirement Les and his Lila will spend time visiting his 5 children and 8 grandchildren all across the U.S., and he will continue to be permanent MC of the Honolulu Quarterback Club every Monday. Les left Philadelphia, after a stint at the WFIL stations, for Hawaii. A WW II Navy veteran, in the 50's and 60's he did the NY Giants and NY Knicks games. Great guy and great career.

Hairston, Councilman **Juan Ramos**, and Mexican Consul **Rocis Vazquez** will be judges, and there will be free chili, after the official testing, for spectators. Always fun and great food. Tom also reports an electric fire, not caused by the chili, at Power 99 and WJZZ was quickly handled.

To say **Pat Delsi** has been having a bad month would not quite do justice to what has happened to our Chairman of the Board. Pat's misadventures ended with a quadruple bypass from which he is now recovering nicely, we hear. We hope to see him at meetings soon.

"He has no enemies, but he is intensely disliked by his friends."

Oscar Wilde

a complete recapitulation of his career on our website, www.broadcast-pioneers.com

Our most sincere condolences are extended to his family and friends. He was a founding member, past President, past Person of the Year of our club. **Bill Webber**, **Lew Klein**, **Marie Pantarelli**, **Gerry Wilkinson**, **Jack Hyland** and others were there for his memorial service, and to say to him thanks for the memories.