



VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #128 "Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media"

August 2022

Preserving Our Broadcast Memories

August 11 • Club Pheasant • Doors open 11:00 a.m. • Lunch service at 11:30 • Program at Noon

by VBL Secretary **Allen Chamberlin**

Our August program will feature **Nicholas Piontek** and **Chad E. Williams** from the Center for Sacramento History. The two historian/archivists will present a how-to on preserving audio, video, and photo collections for the benefit of researchers and future Sacramentans.



Archivist **Nicholas Piontek** is an "Information professional obsessed with finding a better way by having a 'yes before no' mentality." Among his expert duties is developing procedures for processing, storing and keeping records of documentary materials. As well as representing the division before various community groups, potential donors, and individual researchers.

Nick is a recent Master of Science in Information graduate from the University of Michigan School of Information, where he specialized in Archives & Records Management, and previously earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from Michigan State University. While attending graduate school, he served as an elected officer of the student chapter of the Society of American Archivists, and then served as an elected board member for the Students and New Archival Professionals roundtable within the Society.

The Center's Film Specialist, **Chad Williams**, is familiar to many of us because he and Legend **Matías Bombal** produced both the spectacular documentary *Alhambra: Sacramento's Palace of Fantasy*, as well as *The Sacramento Picture! Vintage Film Clips of Our City and Our People*. The later included highlights of a 1920 Sacramento Senators baseball game; the city's commercial and architectural core, J and K streets, and the redevelopment of the West End in the 1950s and 1960s. Both films included commentary from local experts and longtime citizens who provided insights into the history of our city and the everyday lives of Sacramentans before their stories were

lost forever. In a nod to Joni Mitchell's wisdom, Chad reflected on the Alhambra Theatre, "It was torn down long before I knew it existed ... They tore down paradise and put up a parking lot."

In related news, KCRA alum **Steve LaRosa** wrote an article urging broadcasters to preserve materials properly while citing Nicholas as a local archivist which stimulated this month's program. We reproduce it on the follow page.

**RSVP for the August 11 Meeting:
Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654**

VBL-geek@theguys.org

**Menu: 1/2 Steak or Chicken Sandwich
Pasta (Vegetarian or Meat Sauce)
Shrimp Louie Salad**

Cost: \$25

Reservations required by August 9!

Donating Old Footage to Preserve the Past

by **Steve LaRosa**

For those TV and radio folks who find their homes cluttered with boxes of their “greatest hits” and are looking for a solution to their domestic overcrowding, the Center for Sacramento History may just have the solution.

The Center houses a large collection of moving images in film, video, and digital formats. The largest portion comes from the KCRA-TV Film Collection [rescued by VBL member **Harry Sweet**] and the KOVR-TV Film Collection, both of which contain raw news footage and edited programs dating from the late 1950s. The Center is equipped to accept most audio, film, and video formats.

Many of those formats are such that you probably wouldn't be able to view them anyway, due to not having the suitable equipment. And it would be a shame for them to end up in a garbage dump someday when they could be saved for posterity and for use by future media producers as well as general historic research.

In order to better preserve its film holdings, the Center has recently completed construction of a cold storage room within the vault. The cold storage room will allow the Center to preserve its film holdings and buy valuable time to digitize the film without it decaying. Those interested may contact Nick Piontek at npiontek@cityofsacramento.org

Zooming and Masking

Yes, we will be offering a Zoom feed of our August 11 meeting for those who cannot attend in-person. As **Bud Kress** mentions in his column on the next page, the Zoom portion of our June meeting could have been better. Please remember, we're all volunteers, doing the best we can under sometimes challenging circumstances. This time around, the Zoom feed promises to be much better.

The Zoom livestream will begin at ten minutes to noon, 11:50 a.m. Watch your email for the Zoom link. We'll be sending it out a day or two before August 11.

Now, on to the in-person meeting. Several of you have expressed COVID safety concerns. Should we require everyone to show their vaccination card? Proof of a recent negative COVID test? This is a tough issue, one that the board has struggled with. It really comes down to two things: trusting our members to do the right thing, and a reluctance to put our check-in volunteers in the difficult position of playing “COVID Police.” So, please, take the high road: wear a mask except when eating or drinking, and if you feel sick, stay home and join us on Zoom!



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**VALLEY BROADCAST
LEGENDS**

P.O. Box 601861
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The Veep Speaks

by VBL Vice-President **Bud Kress**



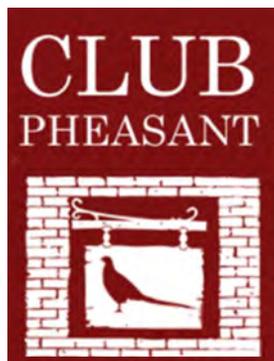
At our last meeting, (was that a great panel !!), I asked KOVR GM **Deborah Collura** about the new weather person. She said they knew who it was but could not say. Well, Northern California welcomes the new meteorologist **Nic Merianos**, who comes from Tampa, Florida. He exchanges the Humid Hot to the Dry Hot. Nic is also a pilot, total fitness nut,

and a firefighter. Stations are doing a great job of reporting, if only the content was better.

As most of you have heard, our beloved Club Pheasant is shutting down at the end of the year. There comes a time to relax and the owners of the Pheasant deserve the peace. We are grateful they are staying open through the rest of the year and we wish them joy and happiness in their retirement

I have identified and scooped out a few new locations we can transition to, but places like the Club Pheasant and the Buggy Whip no longer exist. Look at it

this way: We survived two years away in isolation during the pandemic. We will figure this out, too. Our basic requirements are: private room, plenty of free parking, lunches in the \$25-\$30 range. If you have any ideas, please let me or any board member know.



At our last meeting, we had some issues with Zoom, with so many of us having to put on different hats to make the meeting happen. The Zoom portion of the meeting was a disaster. I

have asked **Kerry Shearer**, “The Livestream Expert,” to assist us in getting the right equipment and training to make it fun for those stuck at home.

Hope to see you at the next meeting as I continue to fill in for President **Jim Drennan**. We’re hopping Jim will be able to make an appearance, health permitting. Think a good thought!



Nic Merianos, new meteorologist at KOVR-13.

The Legends

Membership as of July 31, 2022

- John Archer • Julie Archer
- Jay “DJ Jay” Arnold • Stan Atkinson
- Linda Bayley • Vic Biondi
- Bill Bishofberger • Thomas Blazowski
- Matias Bombal • Tom Buck
- Allen Chamberlin • Mark Chiolis
- Chris Cochran • Jim Drennan • Anita Fein
- Curt Foley • Vicki Fox • Gary Gerould
- Dennis Grayson • Cyndy Green
- Michael Guiliano • Kristine Hanson
- Bud Harmon • Fred Harris • Jerry Henry
- Betsy Hite • Rich Ibarra • John Jervis
- Rick Kavooras • Richard Kermickel
- Tip Kindel • Jan “Neely” Klevan
- Kim Kline • Ward Koppel • Bill Kreutzer
- Bud Kress • Joyce Krieg
- Eleanor Kuechler-VanAcker • Bob Lang
- Dick Leeson • Mike Luery • Dee McCafferty
- Michael McCarron • Jeanne Marie
- Lizette Martinez-Hopkins
- Michael Messmer • Dana Michaels
- Bob Miller • Alan Milner • Joyce Mitchell
- Keith Moon • Ray Nelson
- George Nyberg • John D. O’Brien
- Alan Oda • Sandy Ofsenek Helland
- Deborah Pacyna • Mary Jane Popp
- Tiffany Powell • Craig Prosser
- Rich Raymond • Bruce Riggs • Jay Rudin
- Beth Ruyak • Bill Schmechel • Walt Shaw
- Dann Shively • Barbara Souza
- Roy Stearns • Barry Stigers • Bob Suffel
- Steve Swatt • Gregory VanAcker
- Bob Venditti • Gregory Virtue
- Tom Wagner • Marla Wells
- Dave Williams • Adrian Woodfork
- Dennis Yoder • Jan Young



Congratulations to the “G-man”

Our own **Gary Gerould** is the much-deserving recipient of the highest honor bestowed by a chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. At the Northern California chapter’s annual awards gala in San Francisco on June 11, Gary was honored with the Governors’ Award.

Gary has been traveling the globe as a sportscaster for television and radio for an amazing 64 years. Starting in broadcasting in his hometown of Midland, Michigan at the age of 14, Gerould has logged 1900-hundred network telecasts for NBC, ABC, and ESPN.

He’s the voice of the NBA’s Sacramento Kings and has been doing play-by-play for them since the team’s arrival in Sacramento in 1985. To date, he’s called 26-hundred games. Simultaneously, for 37 years, Gary was a motor sports reporter for ABC and ESPN. Gerould also spent eight-years covering NFL Football.

Gary has done a little bit of everything when it comes to covering sports, from Sumo wrestling to the Olympics. He has a special enthusiasm for Northern California motor sports, donating time, energy, and money to preserve the rich history of various tracks like the Calistoga Speedway.

At age 78, “G-man” says he has no plans of retiring.



John Archer Reaches a Career Milestone

VBL salutes Legend **John Archer**, who has retired after 42 years at KCRA. Anchor **Edie Lambert** aired this report on his last day, July 8:

“It’s the end of an era here at KCRA-3 ... he’s our technical director, which means all the video, camera shots and graphics you see in our newscasts are thanks to his work making sure they all come up at the right time. So yes, that means as we said goodbye during his last show, he’s the one who pushed the buttons to make it possible. John, we will miss you so much but we’re excited that you’ll have more time to enjoy Giants games and your gardening. Best of luck and congratulations!”



100 Years of KFBK

Plans are finally underway for a proper celebration for KFBK’s 100th anniversary. A reunion of sorts for former and current staff members and guests is being planned for Friday, October 21, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the California State Museum in downtown Sacramento. B-K alum **Steve Telliano** is heading up the celebration and is also planning to put up a website featuring old airchecks, photographs and memorabilia. If you have anything to contribute (or know someone who does) or would just like more information about the party, contact Steve at stevetelliano@hotmail.com.



John Jervis: 1933-2022

Legend and former KCRA reporter **John Jervis** died in his sleep the morning of June 8. A graduate of UC Berkeley, John served in the US Navy, where he was the director of the closed-circuit television station aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Kearsarge*. After a brief stint as a reporter for KCBS radio in San Francisco, John settled in at KCRA, first for the radio station, then moving over to the TV side. He covered the 1960 Winter Olympics, and then ran the KCRA Capitol Bureau. In 1971, he left KCRA and worked for the Senate Democratic Caucus, Senator George Moscone, and the state controller's office. John next joined the private sector, working in public relations and consulting. He retired in 1998.



John enjoyed camping trips to Lake Tahoe and Santa Cruz, community outreach activities with his church, Elderhostel trips and especially golf with his friends, a past-time he engaged in until the final weeks of his life.

Memorial services were held July 23 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Carmichael. He is survived by his wife of almost 65 years, Sally Reid Jervis, two daughters and one son, two grandsons and one great-grandson.

Meeting Memories: June 9, 2022



At top left, photographer **Matías Bombal** puts himself in the picture for a change. Our panel of local TV station execs, from left: **Scot Chastain**, VP and GM of KTXL Fox-40; **Ariel Roblin**, President and GM of KCRA/My58; **Deborah Collura**, VP and GM of KOVR/KMAX, and **Jill Manuel**, Director of Content for KXTV-ABC10.