



# VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #135 *“Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media”*

October 2023

Oct. 10 • Aviator’s Restaurant at Executive Airport • Doors open 11 a.m. • Lunch service at 11:30

## Preserving the Media’s State Capitol Access



The Capitol Annex going up in 1949 ...



... and coming down in July of 2023.

The demolition of the State Capitol Annex has been a big local news story—but what about the news reporters who actually worked in the old east wing? How is their eviction impacting the media’s access to lawmakers? This will be the intriguing topic of the October 10 VBL meeting.

Details are still being worked out as of press time for this newsletter, but we do know we will have a representative of Save Our Capitol, the group that fought a valiant but losing court battle to save the annex. Now, they have shifted their focus to protecting and preserving the hundreds of trees from around the world—including one redwood grown from a seedling that orbited the moon—from the effects of the new construction project.

Reporters who cover the capitol, including KCRA’s **Ashley Zavala**, have expressed concern that the replacement as currently designed has no dedicated work space for the news media, unlike most other statehouses around the country.

Many of us have memories of covering news conferences in Room 1190 of the old Annex. Former KCRA Capitol Correspondent **Kevin Riggs** penned a tribute to Room 1190 on [CalMatters](#). “...it was just a drab and utilitarian workspace.

There is no great nostalgia for the room itself, but I will miss

what it represents; a place where elected leaders were answerable to the public and where so much of California’s political history was written.”

He continued, “But sometimes a room is more than just a room. Accountability journalism should never go out of fashion. That’s what really mattered about 1190, and what matters about whatever takes its place in the years ahead.”

Our thanks to VBL Treasurer **Bill George** for putting a program together at the very last minute. As always, RSVPs are required **ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE**. In other words, October 3. See you there!

**RSVP for the October 10 Meeting:  
Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654**

**VBL-geek@theguys.org**

**Cost: \$30 payable at the door. Cash or check only!**

**Reservations required by October 3!**

# Member Hobbies: Adrian Woodfork From News Reporter to Show Dogs

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**



**Adrian Woodfork's** dog fancy hobby has put him in the national spotlight. Last year he was a judge at the National Dog Show in Philadelphia, and was profiled in *Canine Chronicle* magazine. It is a sport that not many African Americans have entered.

Woodfork told *Canine Chronicle*, "I'd always liked animals and when I got to California, I was interested in horses." An injury working an after-school job prompted him to shift his focus and he got a Dachshund. A friend had an Irish Setter he wanted to show and Adrian went to a show and entered his dog. He won second place.

From there, Adrian discovered Dobermans, and that was the breed he wanted to own as an adult. During his years at KCRA, he had bred and shown Wirehaired Dachshunds. His first Doberman was a pet. His first show dog would become "Champion of Record Sherlock's Good Golly Miss Molly."

He started judging after the death of a one-year-old male Doberman he had bred who had great potential. Adrian has demonstrated his ability and judged Dachshunds, Dobermans, Juniors and now also is approved for Working Group, Best In Show and miscellaneous breeds.

Adrian not only was a judge at the National Dog Show, he provided the soundtrack. He told *Canine Chronicle* that it was designed to "put energy in the air" during judging.

For a more in depth look at Adrian's and his hobby, here is a link to the profile in *Canine Chronicle*:

<https://caninechronicle.com/current-articlescurrent/adrian-woodfork-its-all-joy/>

## Officers

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VALLEY BROADCAST  
**LEGENDS**

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# My First Disc Jockey

by VBL Interim President **Joyce Krieg**



A girl never forgets her first DJ. I was nine years old, and the disc jockey was a morning show personality named **Don Sherwood** on KSFO.

All but forgotten now, there was a time—late 1950s, early 60s—when Sherwood ruled the Bay Area airwaves. *Everyone* listened to Donnie Baby, the self-proclaimed “world’s greatest disc jockey.”

He ranked right up there with **Herb Caen** when it came to Northern California name recognition and influence.

For nine-year-old me, sitting in the breakfast nook in a brand-new tract house in suburban San Jose, the show was pure enchantment. One smooth voice and rapid-fire patter swept me away from the petty playground politics awaiting me at Country Lane Elementary. I felt as if I knew Sherwood and his crew better than my teachers, loved them more than any of my classmates.

Of course, being only nine, I didn’t understand even half the jokes and bits, but that was part of the fascination. Sherwood’s world seemed impossibly sophisticated, exotic, glamorous, far beyond the limited life experience of a third-grader. What were my mom and dad laughing about all the time? I didn’t get it, but I vowed that someday I would.

One thing about little girls—they grow up. By the time I hit my teens, I had left Sherwood and the schmaltzy, easy listening music he played far behind. Motown, the Beach Boys, the British Invasion, those were the sounds that rocked my soul—along with the DJs who spun those 45s.

Nowadays, I’m sad to say, I never listen to the radio unless I happen to be a passenger in someone else’s car. It’s simply gotten too angry and divisive at one extreme, too corporate and bland at the other. So I listen to audiobooks checked out of the library or podcasts on my phone.

When I was studying for my FCC license, I learned about “the skip,” how AM radio waves bounce off the ionosphere and back to earth. This explains randomly picking up a station from, say, Chicago if the atmospherics are right. But what if those radio waves never faded, lasting into infinity? One day I’ll flip on the car radio and catch a few familiar snippets through a veil of static: banter with traffic pilot **Hap Harper** ... another episode of “Just Plain Rosita” ... the “Sounds of the City” jingle ... all that magic created by Sherwood and company still fresh and fun after a half-century and more.

Maybe this time around, I’ll get the jokes.

# The Legends

Membership as of Sept. 25, 2023

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





## Barry Stigers: 1940-2023



VBL member **Barry Stigers**, morning news host at KAHI in Auburn, died peacefully in his sleep the morning of September 5 following a battle with cancer.

Barry began his career at KAHI as a volunteer news reader in 2000. In 2003 he was officially hired and took over hosting the afternoon news. He was promoted to News Director and morning news anchor in 2005. After being a regular on-air presence for fourteen years, he officially retired from in March of 2014. That didn't last long. Frustrated with a series of short-lived replacements KAHI GM and fellow VBL member **Jerry Henry** asked Barry to return as a fill-in for two weeks in 2018 while another replacement was located and trained. As Jerry puts it, "That two weeks turned into five and a half years."

On the KAHI website, Jerry wrote, "Our listeners will forever miss the professionalism and that familiar low voice

Barry provided to the foothills for so many years."

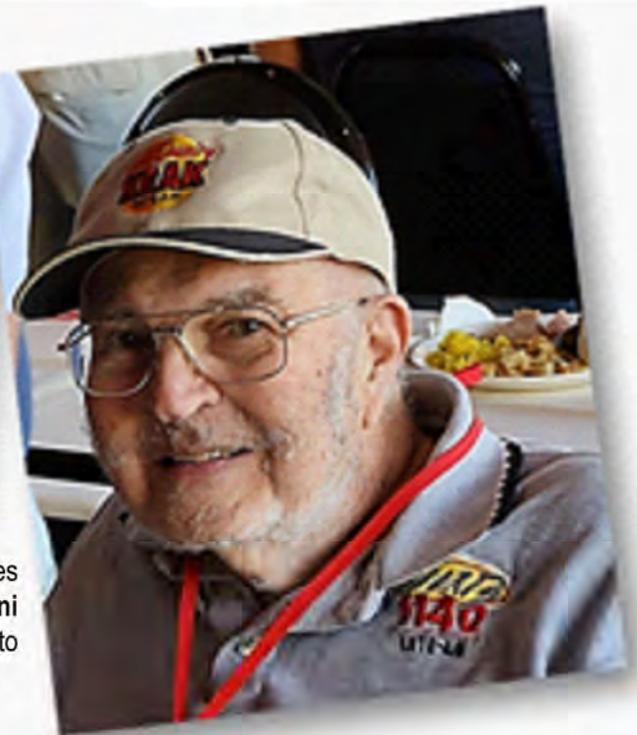
Another VBL member and KAHI staffer, **Mary Jane Popp**, described Barry as "a great pro but more so he was a personality all to himself with a heart as big as he was. What I loved about Barry is he never met a stranger. I'm most proud that many years ago, we started out as colleagues and ended up as friends. Safe journey, my friend."

Barry was just 17 years old when he became a news reporter for his hometown station in Kane, Pennsylvania, WADP. He worked for a variety of stations in Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts and hosted one of the earliest call-in talk shows in 1960.

He left radio in 1964 to join the then-new cable television industry, rising to the level of Vice President of Operations for Warner Cable in New York City. Barry came to California in 1985 as an executive for CableData, a major service computer company serving the cable and telephone industries. He also served as a senior manager at MCI, the long distance phone company.

Barry was active in the Auburn Rotary Club, where members recall his enthusiasm, kindness, positive outlook and sense of humor. He and his companion, **Maggie Rose McGurk**, lived for 12 years at Sun City in Lincoln Hills. Many VBLers will remember Maggie as she accompanied Barry to VBL meetings and gifted us with her professional photography. She recalls, "He just kept up with everything. He was so kind to everybody. He's just the kindest person."

# Meeting Memories: August 8, 2023



The local office of the FBI gave us insider tips on protecting ourselves online. Our guests were Supervisory Special Agent **Jamil Hassani** and Public Affairs Specialist **Gina Swankie**. At right, it sure was nice to have **Walt Shaw** among the Legends. *Photos by Matías Bombal.*

## Stock up on Swag!

VBL logo mugs, t-shirts, caps and more:

<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/vbl-boutique>