



WILLIAM H. BIRCH

William Birch, better known as Bill, was born in Chicago, the son of successful news cameraman Harry Birch. Bill was always interested in photography, and he started a newsreel in both high school and junior college. Bill joined the camera local directly out of high school, the youngest member at 18. While on summer breaks during college, he did lab work at Burton Holmes Films and Agfa Ansco Camera. After college, he joined Movietone News Chicago, working his way up to cameraman, learning from his father, veteran cinematographer Jack Barnett and newsreel cameraman Emile R. "Monty" Montemurro.

Bill enlisted in the Signal Corps in 1942 and was assigned to director Frank Capra's unit in California. The unit worked out of Fox Studios shooting propaganda films including the "Why We Fight" series, one of Capra's most important films. Bill worked with people like Ray Harryhausen, John Huston, Claude Binyon and Theodore Giesel (Dr. Seuss). After the war, Bill returned to Chicago to work for Movietone News. A few years later, he went to NBC and launched its Midwest Bureau.

Bill was responsible for hiring John Chancellor and worked very closely with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley. He covered presidents from Truman to Reagan and filmed stories such as Castro's rise to power and the riots in Selma, collecting many awards along the way.

In the 1960s, Bill opened his own company, Wm. H. Birch and Associates. He continued to cover news on a freelance basis, but also shot commercials, industrials and documentaries. In addition, he began a successful movie career as director of photography for several first and second units. Although his first love has always been film, he went into video in the '70s and recently learned HD cameras. Bill remains active in video production and is willing to lend his vast experience and expertise to those who share in that enthusiasm.

Bill is a member and participant in: I.A.T.S.E. International Photographers Local 600, N.A.B.E.T. Local 41, I.B.E.W. Local 1220, the Directors Guild of America and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He is married to Marjorie Fritz-Birch. His son, Randy, was also a photojournalist for NBC News --- the third generation behind the lens.



H. THAINE LYMAN

It's difficult to think of anyone who had as much positive impact on the lives of up-and-coming television professionals as H. Thaine Lyman. College chairperson, television camera operator, mentor, philosopher, teacher extraordinaire — all these hats fit Thaine very well.

Thaine was born in Huron, South Dakota, and raised on a farm along with 13 brothers and sisters. He joined the Navy at age 17, serving in fire-gunnery control on a ship during World War II. After the war, Thaine married Margaret Sauntry in Sioux City, Iowa. Margaret and her original fiancé had signed up for dance lessons. Thaine was their instructor and, as they say, the rest is history!

Thaine and Margaret moved to Chicago in the Summer of 1948. Thaine went to work as an engineer for WGN Television, broadcasting from the Tribune Tower studios in its inaugural year. In the studio, Thaine operated camera with precision for programs that included "Bozo's Circus," "Garfield Goose and Friends," "The Phil Donahue Show" the "10:00 pm News" and "Nightbeat." Outside the studio, he worked remotes ranging from Cubs games to high school basketball tournaments to the Miss Illinois pageant. Directors of those remotes raved about Thaine's ability to stay a step ahead of them in capturing creative shots for viewers.

In the early 50s, Thaine launched a career that paralleled his hands-on work at WGN-TV. He began teaching at Columbia College and became the first person to head its television department. As an instructor, Thaine was extremely knowledgeable, fair and driven to make sure good students landed careers in TV. As an administrator, Thaine developed a television curriculum for Columbia and hired instructors, many from within the industry, who could best teach courses in the ever-evolving medium.

Thaine received several honors for his work at Columbia College. Perhaps he was most proud of the director's chair that he received from Chicago Women in Broadcasting for his tireless efforts to create inroads for women into an industry dominated by men.

Thaine died in 1983. His wife died 25 years later. They are survived by three children --- Kathy, Thaine and Mark --- 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.



JACK ROSENBERG

As Sports Editor of WGN Television and Radio for more than 40 years, Jack Rosenberg was instrumental in building a nationally-renowned sports department. He was affectionately called "Rosey" by his colleagues, and known to millions who heard references to the seldom seen maestro of the WGN Sports operation.

When WGN-TV broadcast more baseball games than any station, Cubs and White Sox fans heard Jack Brickhouse, Vince Lloyd, Lloyd Pettit and Harry Caray mention Rosey frequently as he provided facts, trivia and stories throughout the telecasts. His memory was encyclopedic and the clacking of his typewriter became a familiar sound.

A television sports pioneer, Jack began his career as a writer and producer at WGN in 1954 before the advent of color TV and instant replay. Jack snared Vince Lloyd's exclusive interview with President Kennedy on the "Lead-Off Man" and Jack Brickhouse's interview with President Reagan, a former baseball announcer. He also produced WGN radio broadcasts of Chicago Bears (with Brickhouse and Irv Kupcinet) and Big Ten football (with Vince Lloyd and Lou Boudreau), founded Tribune Radio Networks, and implemented the series of celebrity guest announcers to fill-in on Cubs telecasts (with Steve Stone) while Caray was recovering from a stroke in 1987.

For decades, Jack has mentored dozens of current and aspiring sportscasters, writers and producers who readily sought his advice and wisdom. When Brickhouse was inducted into the Media Wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame, he asked Rosenberg to write his speech. Several old-time New York sportswriters labeled it the best-ever speech at Cooperstown. Brickhouse told them to "Tell Jack Rosenberg...he wrote it."

A Pekin, Illinois, native and Navy veteran of World War II, Jack was an award-winning newspaperman for the *Peoria Journal-Star* prior to his move to WGN. He was instrumental in organizing the Jack Quinlan Memorial Golf tournament that raised thousands for charity, and currently serves on the Faculty Board of Directors at Swedish Covenant Hospital.

Jack and his wife Mayora were married for 51 years. She passed away in 2007. They have two children, David and Beth, and six grandchildren, Abby, Carly, Jaclyn, Molly, Laura and Ethan.



TOM SCHNECKE

It's hard to remember a time when Tom Schneck wasn't involved in Chicago media. This March marked his 34th year of continuous employment at a Chicago network-owned station. Today, Tom is Vice-President of Operations and Engineering at WBBM-TV, where he manages a staff of over 60 technicians, directors, stagehands and IT support personnel.

Tom's TV connection goes back to his freshman year in high school when Jerry G. Bishop used a song parody Tom had written for "Svengoolie" on his Friday night show on Channel 32. Before he graduated from high school, Tom was answering the request lines for WMAQ Radio. By 1977, he was working as country music radio programmer. He was made a full-time NBC engineer in 1979 just shy of his 21st birthday.

While still in radio, Tom was assigned to several major NBC Sports remotes. In 1985, he became the producer and engineer for all Chicago Bulls broadcasts until the sale of WMAQ Radio in 1988. Tom was transferred to WMAQ-TV eventually becoming Manager of Studio Operations and then of News Operations. He was considered the go-to guy for NBC with his final project being the design of the WSNS studios at the NBC Tower.

In 2003, Tom moved to WBBM-TV where he implemented new technology at the McClurg Court studios, planned the station's transmitter move to Willis Tower, and led the design and construction of 22 West Washington, Chicago's first all-HD station.

Along the way, he obtained two Associate degrees from Harper College, a BA from Columbia College, and an MA in Radio, TV and Film from Northwestern University. Tom has served as a Faculty Advisor to the Harper College radio station and he remains an active participant in activities at Northwestern University, Columbia College and the Television Academy. Tom has received 17 Emmy Awards for technical achievement and production, and a Silver Dome Award from the Illinois Broadcasters Association. He has been honored as a "Distinguished Alumni" of Hoffman Estates High School and Harper College.

Tom has been married to Judy for 26 years and they have three children, Caroline, Katie and Kelly.

