GARY MEAGHER AND JACK WALSH

Friday the thirteenth was a lucky day when Gary Meagher and Jack Walsh launched Trio Video on January 13, 1982. For more than a quarter-century since that fateful day, Trio has been the remote-coverage production arm for local TV stations as well as cable and broadcast networks. Trio started with 84 remotes in its first year and now does more than 800 broadcasts a year.

Gary Meagher is a graduate of the University of Illinois. He began his television career in 1977 at WCIA-TV in Champaign as a news and sports cameraman. He was hired by WSNS-TV/Chicago in 1980 to be a cameraman for their Chicago White Sox games. After the 1980 baseball season, he started working as a freelance cameraman for ESPN and other broadcast networks.

Jack Walsh is a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia. Beginning in 1975, he worked as a director of news, commercials, and special events shows in the southeast. He moved to Chicago as a cameraman for WSNS-TV in 1979 before switching to WGN-TV as a cameraman for The Bozo Show, The Phil Donahue Show and the Cubs telecasts. He started a freelance crewing service in 1980 to cater to the growing sports and entertainment cable networks originating telecasts in the Chicago area.

With Gary and Jack at the helm, Trio Video's first job was a Notre Dame Basketball game for SportsChannel New York on January 14, 1982. Since 1984, Trio Video has provided facilities and crew for Chicago cable broadcasts of home games for local major league sports teams (currently on Comcast SportsNet Chicago.) Trio has provided the facilities for WGN's sports coverage of the Chicago Cubs, Sox and Bulls since 1994.

Trio Video also provides facilities and staffing for entertainment specials, political coverage and corporate events. Trio introduced Chicago's first HD mobile unit, Tango, in December of 2003. Two years earlier, Trio collaborated with WGN to originate Chicago's first remote HD broadcast, a Cubs game from Wrigley Field for which WGN received an Emmy Award for Technical Achievement.

NEAL SABIN

“Entrepreneurial, enterprising, passionate, compassionate and above all a Chicago television original” are the words that Howard Shapiro, Chairman of Weigel Broadcasting Co., uses to describe Neal Sabin.

Neal has spent more than twenty-five years programming, managing and reinventing independent television stations in Chicago. Currently as the Executive Vice President of Weigel Broadcasting Co, Neal oversees various aspects of the company’s 3 local stations as well as its television properties in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and South Bend, Indiana.

In 1983, Neal joined WPWR-TV and quickly created a music video program that took WPWR from off the radar to off the charts. “MV-60” beat major stations such as WGN and WFLD in key demographics. For 11 years, Neal’s savvy scheduling, stunting and acquisition skills were part of the team that built WPWR into one of the most successful independent stations in history.

In 1994, Neal was hired by the Shapiro family’s Weigel Broadcasting to transform WCIU from a foreign language, financial news and brokered ethnic station into a general market independent. Neal silenced skeptics who claimed the days of traditional, stand-alone independent stations were history. He led the team that transformed WCIU into “The U,” a station with personality and a variety of top syndicated programs reflecting the diversity of the Chicago TV audience. Neal’s other Chicago creation, Me-TV and new companion Me-Too unite his love for classic TV with Weigel’s talent for maximizing the potential of low power television and digital multicast facilities. Chicago has embraced Me-TV with ratings that have tied or beaten “the big guys” in key demographics. Perry Mason doesn’t beat Oprah, but he’s often number two in adults!

Neal is a life long Chicagoan, having grown up in Skokie, attending Niles North High School, where he was named a distinguished alumnus. Neal graduated with an honors award in radio programming from Northwestern University’s School of Speech. He spent six years as an instructor in Loyola University’s Department of Communication and serves on the board of Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute. Neal has also served on the Board of Governors for the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of NATAS. He is an avid gardener. On summer Mondays, you may find bouquets of his flowers or baskets of heirloom tomatoes on the WCIU reception desk.