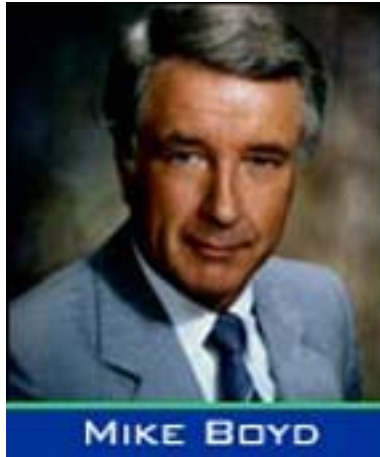


MIKE BOYD LEAVES BEHIND GIANT FOOTPRINTS

The word *legend* is thrown around with reckless abandon in our industry, but there are times we lose someone who deserves the label. **Mike Boyd** was such a person. Everybody in Sacramento knew him. He seemed to show up prominently in every shot of attorneys walking out of court during a big case, and every police soundbite from a crime scene, including the competition's, much to their chagrin. Yes, Boyd learned more than a few tricks during his 38 years at KCRA, Ch. 3. He retired in 2001, and died last month, at age 74.



(guards) brought in Manson's dinner, and Manson says, 'Let this guy eat it.' And then Mike brings out the Manson book ('Helter Skelter'), and Manson grabs it away from him and autographs it."

But his biggest scoop came in 1988, when KCRA chartered a jet to fly Boyd down to southern California to interview notorious F Street murderer **Dorothea Puente**. There were no other commercial flights scheduled that night, so some Sacramento deputies asked if they could tag along. The deputies ended up bringing Puente back to Sacramento with them on that private plane and Mike interviewed her exclusively.

Of the thousands of stories Boyd reported at Ch. 3, two stand out as truly legendary, and will be talked about in newsrooms by generations of journalists to come.

There was the time he interviewed mass murderer **Charles Manson** in his prison cell. Boyd stuck the microphone between the bars of the cell, while Manson, in full "vintage Manson" form, ranted by firing Boyd's questions back at him. Finally, Boyd looked Manson squarely in the eyes and said sternly, "I'm the one who's asking you!"

"Can you imagine challenging Charles Manson like that?" asked **Ron Middlekauff**, a KCRA photographer and longtime friend of Boyd. "I talked to Mike about his Manson interview, and it was incredible. At one point,

Adding insult to injury, the competition had no idea what was unfolding. Rival reporters learned Puente was back in Sacramento and that Boyd had the exclusive interview with her, by watching it all on televisions in the Sacramento airport boarding area the next morning, as they were waiting for the first flight out to L.A.

One of the greatest compliments another reporter could ever receive was besting Boyd on a story, and having him come up to you the next day and say "You kicked my butt." Co-workers and competitors alike will miss that fire and drive, as well as countless other qualities that put Boyd on top, forever.

KGO CHASED OUT OF ITS STUDIO BY RAIN



The November storm front was no surprise. But rain inside the ABC 7 studio was. The KGO building on Front Street in San Francisco has been getting a new roof put on for months, and it wasn't quite ready for the first significant rain of the season when it came November 2nd. Putting a new roof on a television station is much more complicated, and apparently time consuming, than replacing the roof of other buildings. Satellite dishes have to be rewired and moved to one side until half the roof is finished, then everything has to be moved back to the completed side while workers tackle the other half. Turns out, they needed a few more dry days.

Water first started dripping into the ABC 7 studio during a local news cut-in in Good Morning America. The moisture blew out part of the overhead light grid, and

the morning crew scrambled up to the newsroom set for the next update. As the rain picked up throughout the day, so did the leak, until it appeared it was actually raining in the studio. Ch. 7 shot video of the situation, and showed it to viewers during their Midday, 5:00, 6:00, and 11:00pm newscasts to help explain why they were anchoring their shows from the newsroom instead of the regular news desk (which viewers saw covered by protective tarps). The only adjustment made was to the 6:00 show, which **Jessica Aguirre** and **Pete Wilson** divided up, each anchoring half, rather than trying to co-anchor from the small "flash cam" desk. In the end, the shows all went off without a hitch, as work continued on the roof to plug the leaks quickly, because the next rain storm was expected to hit in about 12 hours.