

Two More Silver Circle Members Pass

ROD SHERRY

HARRY MARTIN



By Ben Williams

There used to be a popular expression, borrowed from a household cleanser called "Spick and Span." When something or someone was described as Spick and Span it was the ultimate. It was as neat and clean as it could be. I think of that old saw when I think of **Rod Sherry's** diction. His speech was crisp and precise, no confetti words to decorate his statements, no elliptical errors. He never strayed far from his professional voice.

Rod was a broadcast "natural." He was not a tall man - under six feet. But, his erect posture and patrician manner made him seem taller; and he was gifted with a good set of pipes that helped him "nail" the first job he went after in broadcasting. He was just a high school kid when a school mate told him about an opening at WEBR in Buffalo. He auditioned and was hired immediately. Thus began a stellar career.

He went from there to WBNY, then to WGR and to KNX and KTTV in Los Angeles where his career made a triumphant detour when he enrolled in the drama department at UCLA. He won plaudits for his acting in classical dramas including **Shakespeare**, **Moliere** and **Shaw**. He was so good he got called for a part in the movie *The Bridges of Toko-Ri* starring **Grace Kelly** and **William Holden**. He also starred in a short anti-war movie called *A Time Out for War* that won an Academy Award. The London Evening News called it "The most powerful argument against war ever filmed"

Meanwhile, he met and married **Martha**, the love of his life. The two were married 58 years until her death. He graduated from UCLA and got a job behind the mike at KOGO. There, he was heard by a group of visiting Westinghouse executives and invited to join the company team at KPIX in San Francisco, which he considered the crowning move of his career. He also was News Director and Anchor at KFTY 50 in Santa Rosa.

Rod was a founding member of the *Broadcast Legends* and the Silver Circle, class of 1999.



He once said, "I've interviewed 2,000 stars and 23 actors!" That's just one of the legacies **Harry Martin** leaves behind from more than 30 years at KCRA Ch. 3 in Sacramento. He died last month at the age of 81.

Martin first hit the broadcast scene with his "*Captain Sacto*" children's show in the 1950s and '60s. He went on to anchor the news and host evening magazine shows where he developed a specialty for interviewing celebrities. He snagged them all: **John Wayne**, **Bob Hope**, **Clint Eastwood**, **Johnny Carson**, **Goldie Hawn** and **Tom Hanks**. Former *Star Trek* star **Leonard Nimoy** has said the only time he ever granted an interview in his pointy "Spock" ears was to Martin, because Martin had the gumption to walk up to him outside the television studio in Hollywood during the early days of the show and start asking questions.

Martin's wife, **Paulyne**, died from cancer in August. Five months later, he learned he also had cancer. Their daughter, **Dayna Larson**, said "He had no regrets at all. He was ready to go be with our mother."

Bob Young, KGO Passes



If you knew **Bob Young**, you would know who he was, what he was. A life force. Arms outstretched "I'm here! Trust me!" Then the finger pointing and the laughs would start. Bob was a native San Franciscan, graduating from Balboa and SF State. He joined the service and played tenor saxophone in the Army Band. After returning to San Francisco, he worked as a professional musician, then at BBDO Advertising where he met his wife **Irene**, and eventually went to KGO TV where he worked for 27 years, ending his career as general sales manager. Bob hired a rainbow of people for his sales staff and effectively trained, by his honest, hard working example, many young men and women who to this day say that he changed their lives.