



Charles Schulz was a master of his art. He was a true legend who brought smiles and laughter to millions, young and old.

Inducted into the *Silver Circle 1997* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in 1997, Schulz was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1922.

During most of his adult life, he lived near Santa Rosa, north of San Francisco. The popular Charles M. Schulz Museum is located in Santa Rosa.

Schulz was nicknamed "Sparky" after Barney Google's horse "Sparkplug". His fascination with comic strips began early, reading the Sunday comics from four different newspapers with his father each week. With encouragement from his father, a barber, and his mother, Schulz enrolled in a correspondence course in cartooning at what is now the Art Instruction Schools.

His career in cartooning was interrupted in 1943 when he was drafted into the Army and he soon embarked for Europe in the fight against Germany. Upon his return, Schulz landed his first job in cartooning at Timeless Topix, a Catholic comics magazine. Soon after, he took on a second job as a teacher at Art Instruction, where he worked with Charlie Brown, Linus and Frieda, who later lent their names to the *Peanuts* comic strip. Schulz's first break came in 1947 when he sold a cartoon feature called "Li'l Folks" to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. "Li'l Folks" ran as a weekly feature for two years. In 1948 he sold a cartoon panel to the Saturday Evening Post and would go on to sell 15 more panels between 1948 and 1950.

In 1950, after many mailbox rejections, Schulz boarded a train from St. Paul to New York with a handful of drawings for a meeting with United Feature Syndicate. On Oct. 2 of that year, *Peanuts*, named by the syndicate, debuted in seven newspapers. When asked if he thought the strip would be a success, Schulz replied, "Sure, I thought it would last. In



fact, when I started out I thought, I'll be drawing this for the rest of my life."

That's exactly what happened.

Schulz was 77 when he died on Feb. 12, 2000, a day before his final "Peanuts" cartoon ran in the Sunday editions of newspapers across the country.

Next month in Gold & Silver Circle Profiles: A very special interview with **Lee Mendelson**, a 1988 *Silver Circle* inductee who will be

inducted Oct. 24 into the **Gold Circle** of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Kevin Wing is a San Francisco-based producer for ABC News' "Good Morning America", is editor of "Off Camera" and serves as San Francisco vice president on the Board of Governors of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Inducted into the Chapter's Silver Circle in 2013, he has been penning "Gold & Silver Circle Profiles" since 2007.

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