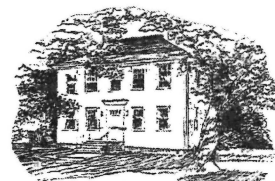


IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Remembering Peter Grant

Peter Grant was Cincinnati's pre-eminent broadcast journalist for 35 years. Though he resided in Silverton, he spent much of his leisure time in Indian Hill where he had many friends and exhibited his equestrian skills.

Born Melvin Meredith Maginn in 1906, he took the professional name of Peter Grant. He was the son and grandson of St. Louis lawyers and studied law at Washington University where he got a Bachelor of Law degree in 1930. Previous jobs included being a bus driver and a tree surgeon for St. Louis parks. He auditioned for radio station KMOX, where he accepted a position. After two years in St. Louis, in 1932 he moved to Cincinnati, where he was hired by WLW.

WLW-AM was *The Nation's Station*. By the late 1920s, it was a 50,000 watt clear channel station at 700 on the dial. WLW was 10 years old and Peter Grant was 26 when he became a staff announcer. One of the station's most memorable programs was "Moon River", a late night show of organ music and romantic poetry that was well known from coast to coast. The show was not based on the river written about by Henry Mancini. It was created by a WLW writer inspired by moonlight memories on the Ohio River. The organ played "Caprice Viennoise" and the narrator crooned the introduction, "Down the valley of a thousand yesterdays flow the bright waters of Moon River..." Grant hosted the show for years.



By 1935 Peter Grant was the chief announcer for WLW and WSAI. Before World War II broke out, he was given a temporary occupational deferment by his draft board as a "necessary man" in his career, but in 1942, he was inducted and went into the U.S. Army as a private. Four years later, he came out with the rank of major. In 1948, Grant made the transition to television easily. His TV image was popular, and it blended his professionalism, personality, and polished baritone delivery.

A tall, genial man, Grant spoke with smooth, modulated, almost British diction. As a lifelong bachelor, he lived with his mother, Anna Maginn, to whom he was devoted. She died in 1977. At their home, he filled in the swimming pool with dirt and planted a rose garden in it. He did his own tree trimming and kept many bird feeders. He boarded horses at various locations in Indian Hill including Camargo Stables and Lola Bonnell's barn. Two of his mounts were named Roger and Eisenhower. He foxhunted throughout Indian Hill and as a member of the Camargo Hunt participated in shows and social events. One of his best friends was fellow huntsman James Rheinstrom, who donated Rheinstrom Park to the Village. To relax, Grant read books. He kept informed about national issues through nonfiction, but favored British writers; and his favorite author was Charles Dickens.



His career was demanding. Besides anchoring two versions of the evening television news, he continued twice daily with radio announcing. Several mornings a week, he appeared on the Ruth Lyons 50 -50 Show, and on occasion he worked as a news panelist. Grant worked at WLW/WLWT for 33 years, seven days a week before he got Saturdays off. After 35 years on the job, he retired in 1968. He now had the time to pursue leisure activities, like riding horses or bicycling.

Peter Grant died in 1990 at age 83. The legendary broadcaster was a Cincinnati mainstay and an esteemed journalist. An anchorman who enjoyed riding to the hounds in Indian Hill, he was a pioneer in gaining public respect for newscasting as a dependable source of information.