



2020 Nomination Form

Application deadline: Friday, February 28 by 5 p.m.

DELIVER TO: City Hall, 101 N. Main St., Winston-Salem,
Marketing & Communications Department, Suite 336

OR MAIL TO: City of Winston-Salem,
Marketing & Communications Department
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Nominee's Stage Name: George Lee Given Name: George Lee Bowermaster

Address at Time of Death: 1218 Magnolia St. Winston-Salem State: NC

Winston-Salem Resident: Beginning: 1964 (year only) To: 2006 (year only)

Category: Music Visual Arts Dance Motion Pictures
 Theater Television Writing Radio

Criteria:

- The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
- The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate).
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio. A "significant" contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.
- Application must include nominee's performance/accomplishment biography.
- Attach nominee's biography with dates which must include at least 5 years of accomplishments in the arts, culture, or entertainment field.
- Attach a list of nominee's civic/community involvement.
- Attach a copy of nominee's death certificate.

Sponsor: Kim Brown

Address: 415 Roslyn Rd.

City: Winston-Salem State: NC Zip Code: 27104

Email: kbbx5@triad.rr.com

Phone: Home: 336-722-3431 Cell: 336-575-0607

Signature: Kim Brown Date: 2/25/2020



George Lee Bowermaster Biographical Summary

George Lee realized his talent and passion for radio and theater from an early age. He attended Marshall University in Huntington, WV, with the intent of majoring in broadcasting. By his junior year, he was well on his way to making a name for himself on the local radio station, and realized he could make a living doing what he loved. With an offer from a radio station in Winston-Salem, he left college and in 1960 began his professional career at WAIR. From there he became one of the “Good Guys” at WTOB from 1964 to 1968. In 1968 he went to WSJS until 1982. He made a name for himself with “The George Lee Showboat.” He always signed off at the end of his shift with “Remember to drive a little slow, and be a little late. The life you save could be mine. Myself, I’d rather be a little late than be the late George Lee.”

He was an award winning voice talent during his time at WSJS. Between 1977 and 1980, he won 4 first-place Addys (American Advertising Awards), 3 second-place Addys, and 2 third-place Addys. He also won the Hollywood Radio & TV Society International Boist Award in 1981.

In addition to his work as a radio announcer (he despised being called a “disc jockey” as it sounded demeaning), he was a highly sought after “DJ” for private events and parties. It wasn’t just the music he played, it was his larger-than-life personality that could turn any event into a huge success.

Once George left radio, he remained in Winston-Salem and began a long career as an actor and voice-over talent. Some of the movies he was cast in included: Chiefs (1983) – a mini-series in which he played a scene with Charlton Heston; Hellraiser III (1992) - They dubbed his voice which really ticked him off! The director didn’t think he had a good enough New York accent; Patch Adams (1998) – in which he played a scene with Robin Williams. Other notable work was being cast in 2 episodes of Matlock, with Andy Griffith; and being the voice for “Beyond the Wheel”, a weekly national NASCAR television program.

He had a very altruistic heart. He was committed to being an integral part of the community. He was a lead actor in many of the Little Theatre productions from the 1960s into the 1990s, playing in such productions as The Miracle Worker, George Washington Slept Here, Plaza Suites, Mousetrap, and Hello, Dolly. My sister and I called the Little Theatre our second home. If he wasn’t at the radio station, he was at the theatre working on the next production.

He was also an advocate for the UNC School of the Arts from its inception. He lent his talents as often as needed. He was always committed to helping and supporting students in the arts. The arts and mentoring others were his passions. He appeared in many of the student films pro bono. He was also a dedicated River Run volunteer.

George readily offered himself to students in a different form of art at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, aka Wake Forest School of Medicine. The school had a program for medical students in which they would role play medical situations to give the students practice and confidence in interacting with patients and diagnosing them. He really enjoyed playing the patient and helping and encouraging the students. His efforts helped many students hone their skills over the years.

Other activities that he was committed to and offered his time and talents to were with the Winston-Salem Symphony playing emcee for the Music at Sunset for many years. He was also a dedicated member at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church for over 40 years. He was active in the choir, and in the Order of St. Luke, ministry of healing.

Below is a letter from Verne Hill, WBFJ, explaining the impact George had on him and the radio community.

***“Drive a little slower and be a little late....
I’d rather be a little late, than the late George Lee”***

I still remember that now famous sign off from longtime broadcaster, actor and all around ‘Good Guy’, George Lee. The dynamic local radio personality with that animated baritone voice who entertained thousands over the air waves.

But as a kid growing up in the Midway community, I truly thought that George Lee was talking to me – just me. That’s what they call radio ‘magic’.

I first dialed into the magic of AM (along with George Lee) back in the 1970s on my trusty Radio Shack transistor radio. That thing was literally ‘glued’ to my ear. A constant companion to an only child in search of escape. My gateway to a much bigger world. Radio was indeed theatrics of the mind. And George Lee was king of his make-believe domain.

Just mention the name – George Lee – and almost everyone that lived in this area back in the 1970s and 80s had a story. A George Lee story.

Here’s just one of mind...

I first met the great George Lee back in 1990 when I was fresh out of college. I was employed at a local small-time ad agency and George had stopped by to voice a spot. One day that baritone voice belted from that hallway.

I immediately recognized that voice – it had to be...

We were introduced. I uttered that first thing that came to my mind.

“I remember listening to you when I was THIS high.” (lowering my hand to my waist).

Never one to miss a punchline, George chuckled, “Thank you, I think?!”.

That providential meeting was the start of a true friendship. I not only knew George Lee the radio guy, but I truly got to KNOW the real man. A man who loved trains, loved life, loved to laugh – and make others laugh. George was opinionated. He was confident. Yet also vulnerable at times. Yes, George was actually human. I truly admired the bigger-than-life radio personality. And I loved getting a glimpse of the mere mortal.

Unknowingly, George became my mentor. I have been blessed to ‘do’ local radio for over 20 years in the Triad. I LOVE what I do. It’s not a job, but a passion. Because of George sharing his talent so many years ago. That passion of doing radio with excellence and dreaming bigger was infectious! I caught that broadcasting bug and there is no cure.

It was an honor to call George Lee my friend.

Jesse Thorn, host of ‘Bullseye’ suggests that “all great radio hosts have a signature sign off...” George Lee will be remembered for a great sign-off. And so much more.

-Verne Hill, WBFJ Morning Show

News/ Public Affairs Director

*Lover of all things radio...

February 24, 2020

NOT A CERTIFIED COPY

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
N. C. VITAL RECORDS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH



BK D112 P3696

Registration District No. 03495

Local No. 045

1. George Lee Bowermaster						SEX Male	DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) September 29, 2006
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 236-56-0924		AGE—Last Birthday (Years) 67	UNDER 1 YEAR Months Days	UNDER 1 DAY Hours Minutes	DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) March 12, 1939	BIRTHPLACE (County and State or Foreign Country) Ohio Co., WV	
4. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes or No) No		8a. PLACE OF DEATH (Check only one) HOSPITAL: <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input type="checkbox"/> ER/Outpatient <input type="checkbox"/> DOA OTHER: <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home <input type="checkbox"/> Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Hospice					
FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and number) Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home			CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH Winston-Salem		INSIDE CITY LIMITS? (Yes or No) Yes	COUNTY OF DEATH Forsyth Co. NC	
MARITAL STATUS—Married, Never Married, Widowed, Divorced (Specify) Divorced		SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name) (None)		DECEDENT'S USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life. Do not use retired.) Radio Personality		KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY Entertainment	
RESIDENCE—STATE NC	COUNTY Forsyth	CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Winston-Salem		STREET AND NUMBER 1218 Magnolia Street			
INSIDE CITY LIMITS? (Yes or No) Yes	ZIP CODE 27103	Was Decedent of Hispanic Origin? (Specify Yes or No—if yes, specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Specify)		RACE—American Indian, Black, White, Etc. (Specify) White		DECEDENT'S EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (13-17+) 15	
FATHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) George Earl Bowermaster				MOTHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Maiden Surname) Margaret Sharp			
INFORMANT'S NAME (Type/Print) Kimberly B. Brown			MAILING ADDRESS (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code) 415 Roslyn Rd. Winston-Salem, NC 27104			DATE AMENDED 19a.	
PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock or heart failure. If appropriate, enter tobacco, alcohol, or drug use. List only one cause on each line. (PRINT or TYPE)							Approximate Interval Between Onset and Death
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death)							
a. pancreatic cancer DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):							
b. _____ DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):							
c. _____ DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):							
20a. d. _____ DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):							
PART II. Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I, such as tobacco, alcohol, or drug use; diabetes, etc.							
20b. AUTOPSY? (Yes or No) If yes, were findings considered in determining cause of death? Was case referred to Medical Examiner? (Yes or No) TIME OF DEATH							
21a. _____		21b. _____		21c. _____		22. 12:45 P.M.	
NOTICE: STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL DEATHS DUE TO TRAUMA, ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, SUICIDE, OR UNDER SUSPICIOUS, UNUSUAL, OR UNNATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES BE REPORTED TO, AND CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL EXAMINER ON A MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH. ANY DEATH FALLING INTO THESE CATEGORIES IS WITHIN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S JURISDICTION REGARDLESS OF THE LENGTH OF SURVIVAL FOLLOWING THE UNDERLYING INJURY.							
SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF CERTIFIER [Signature] assoc med dr						DATE SIGNED (Month/Day, Year) 9/29/06	
23a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO COMPLETED CAUSE OF DEATH (ITEM 20) (Type or Print) Karen Cass no 101 Hospice Ln. Winston Salem, NC 27103							
METHOD OF DISPOSITION <input type="checkbox"/> Burial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cremation <input type="checkbox"/> Removal		PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) Hayworth-Miller Crematory		LOCATION—City or Town, State, Zip Code Winston-Salem, NC 27103			
25a. <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Other		25b. _____		25c. _____			
NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL HOME Hayworth-Miller 3315 Silas Creek Pkwy Winston-Salem, NC 27103			NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR E. Wayne Worrell			LICENSE NUMBER FS 2020	
REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE [Signature]			DATE FILED (Month, Day, Year) 10-2-2006		NAME OF ENBALMER Body Not Embalmed		LICENSE NUMBER N/A

DECEDENT

PARENTS

INFORMANT

CAUSE OF DEATH

CERTIFIER

DISPOSITION

Man behind the voice, George Lee, dies at 67

He was active in radio and acting

By Mark Burger
JOURNAL ARTS REPORTER

George Lee, a noted actor and radio personality in Winston-Salem and throughout the Piedmont Triad, died yesterday in hospice care in Winston-Salem. He was 67.

Lee, who was born George Lee Bowermaster, found out that he had pancreatic cancer in April and underwent chemotherapy treatment. Although he maintained an upbeat attitude, his condition declined earlier this month.

With his memorable voice and irreverent sense of humor, Lee found fame in the 1960s as one of the popular "Good Guys" disc-jockey lineup on WTOB, where he was remembered for his sign-off: "Drive safely. The life you



George Lee appeared on radio, television and film over the past 40 years. He died yesterday.

See **GEORGE LEE**, Page B5

"He will be missed in so many ways."

Dale Pollock of the N.C. School of the Arts

GEORGE LEE

Continued From Page B1

save may be your own. Myself, I'd rather be late than be the late George Lee."

Lee was born March 12, 1939, in Wheeling, W.Va. He attended Marshall College but never graduated, opting instead to take a full-time radio job at a station in Huntington.

He visited Winston-Salem to attend a cousin's wedding and stopped by WAIR to see if a job was open. There was, and Lee moved to Winston-Salem in 1960.

He joined WSJS in 1968 and was promoted to program director of WSJS and sister station WTQR in 1976. He would occasionally do local TV newscasts and held several fundraisers for UNC-TV over the years.

Lee left full-time radio in 1982 to concentrate on free-lance acting and voice-over work. He also appeared regularly onstage in community-theater productions until the early 1990s, but never strayed far from radio.

His voice-overs are still heard on commercials playing in regular rotation throughout the region. He was also "the voice Behind the Wheel" as the narrator of *Beyond the Wheel*, a popular program recapping the week in NASCAR on The Speed Channel.

He appeared opposite Charlton Heston in the 1983 CBS-TV miniseries *Chiefs*, and had roles in *Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth* (1992), *The Program* (1993) with James Caan, and the 1999 Robin Williams blockbuster *Patch Adams*.

Lee was also a fixture at the School of Filmmaking at the N.C. School of the Arts, appearing in many student films and establishing friendships with students and faculty members alike.

"George was a vital and important part of the filmmaking program," said Dale Pollock, the dean of the School of Filmmaking from 1998 until this year. "He appeared in countless student films and gave some of the best performances recorded on film and digital video by our students. He was always collaborative, selfless and thoroughly entranced with the artistic process. He will be missed in so many ways."

One of those student filmmakers was Mark Freiburger, who called on Lee to appear in a pivotal scene opposite Will Patton and Richard Herd in his feature debut, *The Dog Days of Summer*, which was filmed in Edenton last year.

"It was an absolute pleasure working with George," Freiburger said. "I am very thankful for the opportunity we had to collaborate at NCSA and in the professional realm."

"George had one of those amazing voices that immediately turned heads," said Butter Birkas, a former faculty member at the School of Filmmaking and the former director of the RiverRun International Film Festival, where Lee was a volunteer.

"His persona will endure in celluloid at the School of the Arts, but his heart and soul live on in so many of us who were lucky enough to know him."

In a profile published last October in the *Winston-Salem Journal*, Lee explained his lifelong romance with performing. "It's all about having fun and taking chances — and vice versa," he said.

Lee is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Beth Bowermaster Brown and Susan Brooke Bowermaster, both of Winston-Salem, five grandchildren and a sister. The funeral will be 2 p.m. Monday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

■ Mark Burger can be reached at 727-7370 or at mburger@wsjournal.com.

'GOOD GUY': *Broadcaster*

By **Melissa Hall**

KERNERSVILLE JOURNAL REPORTER

Kblog

Sunday, Oct. 1 — One of the good guys died Friday afternoon, George Lee. I got to know George in the late 1970s when I went to work at WTQR and he was the afternoon announcer on WSJS. By then, he had been on the local broadcast scene almost 20 years.

He started his career at WAIR and went to WTOB, where the disc jockeys were known as "The Good Guys." And he really was.

In 1968, he went to WSJS. Over the years, George had different characters on his show that he invented. They included

kBlog



Blue the Bionic Dog and Magnolia Sweetbreath. One thing that many loyal fans remember is his legendary sign-off reminding people to drive carefully, "that the life you save may be mine. Myself, I would rather be a little late than be the late George Lee."

Over the last eight or nine years, George and I got to be good friends. He was one of the funniest people I will ever know. He came up with awful puns that would leave you groaning after you stopped laughing. He

told jokes and sometimes mangled the punch line or forgot it altogether.

But being the master showman he was, he would simply invent another punch line. It usually didn't work, but we didn't care. We were in the presence of someone who was in a Robin Williams movie (*Patch Adams*) and had been in a couple of episodes of *Matlock*, among his movie and television credits.

One of his favorite stories was about the time that he and Tom Chambers, another radio personality at WSJS, told only the punch lines to jokes on the air. That doesn't sound too bad, except although the punch line

Kernersville Journal of the Winston-

George Lee made mark, left a smile

were clean the jokes they went to were dirty. That's our George.

In early May, pancreatic cancer was diagnosed. In typical fashion, George faced the diagnosis with courage and a sense of humor. He told me shortly after the cancer was found that he looked at this as an adventure. That was also our George. He was a fighter and he never gave up.

People would hear his distinctive voice and say, "Aren't you George Lee? I remember you." His face would light up and another friend was made. George knew what it took to be a good friend. He would listen and offer advice or encouragement.

He has a legion of friends who will think of him whenever a bad pun is thrown or they need someone to listen to an idea or problem.

George Lee Bowermaster died quietly and peacefully Friday afternoon at the Kate Biting Reynolds Hospice House. His sister Nancy, daughters Kim and Susan, grandchildren Brad, Kirstin, Keenan, Frankie and Helen, his son-in-law Kenry, and several nieces and nephews survive him.

Reader's Comments

Doug says: When Inez Davis, Jim Memory and Dana Caudill Jones fired Randy McCaslin earlier this year, didn't they hint that an audit would be per-

formed that would expose problems to justify getting rid of Randy? Whatever became of that? (Posted Sept. 28 at 3:34 p.m.)

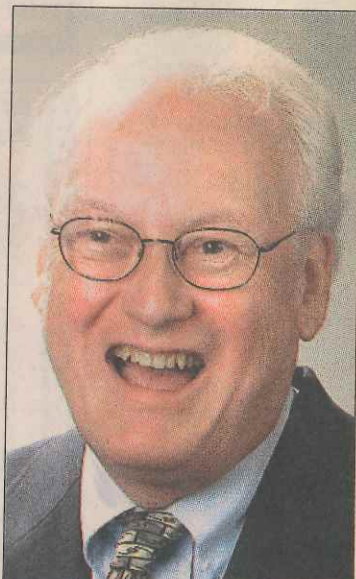
Melissa says: Roger Bryant, the interim town manager, said that an audit was done and presented to the board in July. There was no malfeasance found.

The auditors did find some problems in record keeping and procedural matters that are being addressed. (Posted Sept. 29 at 1:52 p.m.)

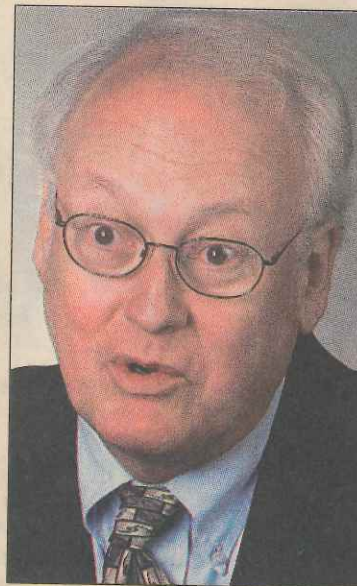
■ *Melissa Hall can be reached at 996-6601, mhall@wsjournal.com or at <http://kernersvillejournalnow.net>.*



How old is George Lee? "I was born at a very young age. So forgive me if I don't remember."



"I've managed to do what I love to do in a place I love to live, and still make ends meet."



JOURNAL PHOTOS BY MEGAN MORR

THAT VOICE

George Lee's career is a many-splendored thing that has taken him from radio shows to television and local theater to the big screen

By Mark Burger
JOURNAL ARTS REPORTER

Chances are, you know George Lee — and not just because he has lived in Winston-Salem for more than 40 years.

If you've turned on the TV or radio, odds are that you've seen his face or heard his voice.

Over the years, Lee has appeared in or done voiceovers for commercials for Sprint, Nextel, the Carolina Panthers, LifeAlert and, some years ago, even the *Winston-Salem Journal*, to name only a few. Regular viewers of UNC-TV may remember Lee as a former host of its annual on-air fundraisers. In recent years he has become a familiar face in films made by students at the N.C. School of the Arts.

NASCAR fans will recognize Lee's distinctive voice as the narrator for *Beyond the Wheel*, which is the top-rated program on The Speed Channel (Channel 101 on Time Warner digital cable). The show was recently expanded from 30 minutes to one hour. Lee's is "the voice behind the *Wheel*."

Lee records his narration in his home studio each week and also travels to Charlotte on a regular basis — sometimes on his motorcycle, sometimes in his car (the one with the "NAR 8 R" license plate).

Lee, a longtime NASCAR fan, said that *Beyond the Wheel* ranks high on his list of personal favorites. "They do a tremendous job putting it together," he said. "The NASCAR fans I talk to say it's the best show of its kind they've ever seen, and the ratings reflect that. It's a great show to be a part of."

Jim Jorden, the executive producer of the series, worked with such legendary broadcasters as Harry Kalas, John Facenda and Rob Webb during his 15 years at NFL Films. When seeking an announcer for *Beyond the Wheel*, "we were looking for 'A Voice,'" said Jorden, "somebody I wanted to be our signature voice."

Jorden and the production team lis-

See VOICE, Page F5

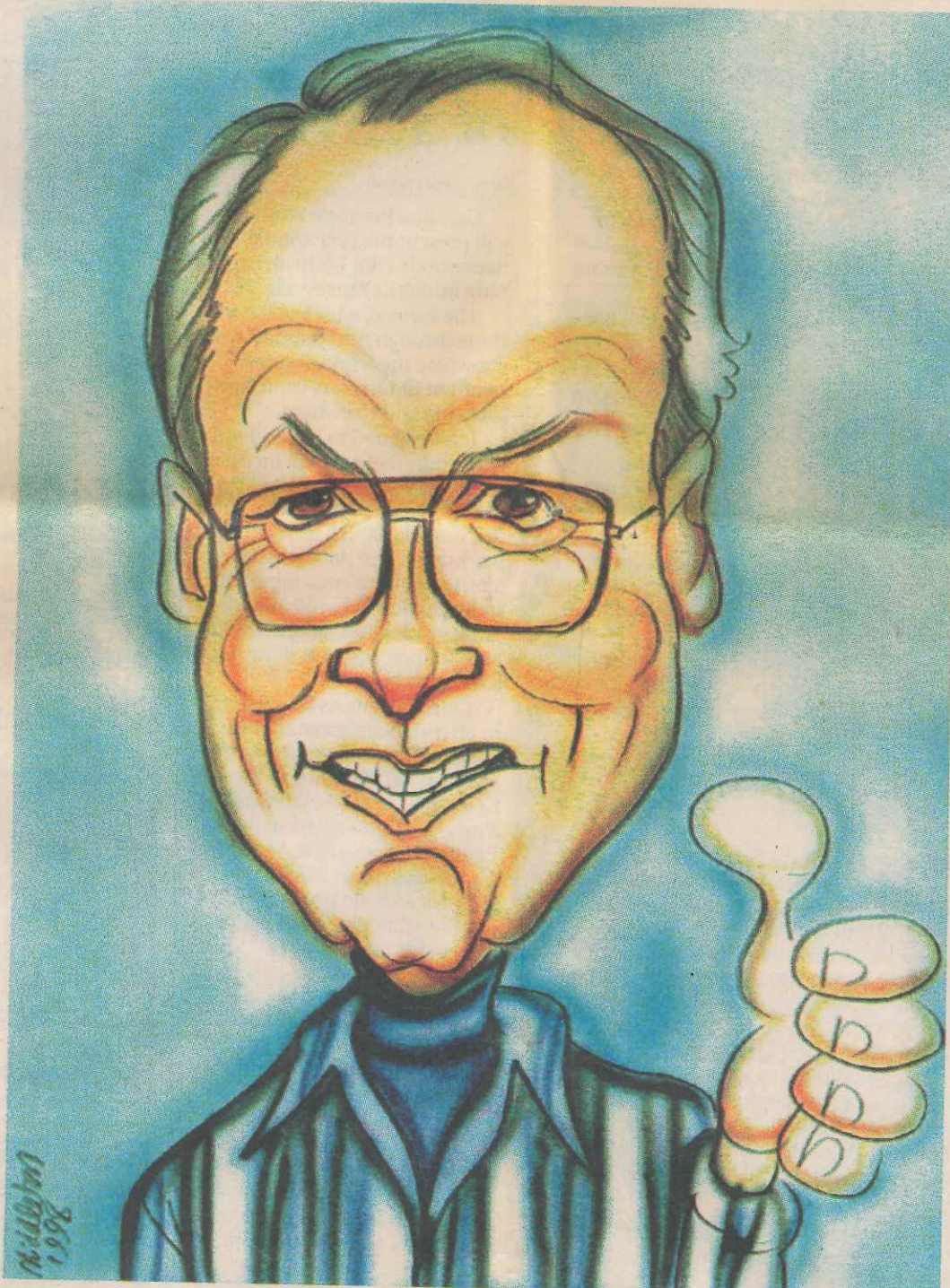


IMAGE COURTESY OF GEORGE LEE

ARTS

VOICE

Continued From Page F1

tened to countless demo tapes, "and George's voice caught my ear," he said. "It was a very unique sound. George was my only consideration for the voice I wanted."

Lee, who was born in West Virginia, inherited his love for the written and spoken word from his mother, a nationally known storyteller. Even at an early age, Lee was a devotee of radio. He was a student broadcaster while attending Marshall College, but he never did graduate.

The reason — he was offered a professional radio gig in North Carolina, "at the princely salary of \$105 a week," he recalled. "And that was good money. I might have done it for half as much."

On radio, Lee enjoyed stints at WTOB and WAIR, and he was a fixture at WSJS from 1968 until 1982. He still does many voiceovers for radio, and occasionally feels a pang of nostalgia for the old on-air days.

"I don't want to sound like some old fuddy-duddy saying 'It ain't like the old days,' but it ain't!" he said. During his heyday on a top-rated WSJS rock 'n' roll show, "we just owned the town," Lee recalled, smiling.

During that time, Lee also was the host of live rock 'n' roll shows and dabbled in TV news. He also appeared in many productions of the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem during the 1960s. Lee is still a theater aficionado, but he said that his voiceover schedule would make attending rehearsals difficult.

Currently unmarried, Lee is the father of two daughters — "both girls," he joked — and a grandfather of five, and he's definitely noticed some artistic leanings among his grandchildren.

"Oh, yes, those genes have been passed down," he said.

A fan of film since boyhood, Lee grew up idolizing John Wayne and Don Ameche. In later years, he came to revere the work of Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman and Peter Boyle. More recently, he has become an admirer of Tom Hanks and Robin Williams, with whom he worked in the 1998 box-office smash *Patch Adams*, some of which was filmed in Asheville and Chapel Hill. Lee played one of the boardroom doctors who questions Adams' unorthodox methods, and Williams played Patch Adams.

Lee jokingly refers to *Patch Adams* as "the film that almost killed me." Not because of a stunt gone wrong, but due to Williams' comic genius. Lee fondly recalls joining Williams for after-work dinners at which Williams regaled his fellow diners with a rapid-fire series of gags and impressions.

"I was laughing so hard that I



George Lee's license plate reads "NAR 8 R" for "narrator."

JOURNAL PHOTO BY MEGAN MORR

was literally on the verge of falling over," Lee said. "Robin Williams is so fast and so spontaneous. I'd never seen anything like it. He's just brilliant — and a nice guy, to boot."

Having "conquered" radio and television, Lee has been making progress in the feature-film world for nearly 20 years.

His latest film is *The Dog Days of Summer*, an independent feature shot in Edenton earlier this year under the direction of Mark Freiburger, a graduate of the School of Filmmaking at the N.C. School of the Arts. The film stars Will Patton and Richard Herd, and filming will resume later this year to capture the winter weather for specific sequences.

Freiburger and Lee knew each other from the numerous student films that Lee appeared in over the years, but hadn't worked as director and actor.

When Lee went to read for a role during a casting session in Charlotte, "he did an awesome reading," Freiburger recalled. "We cast him and — what can I say? — he was very professional and a lot of fun to work with."

Lee plays a bewildered shopkeeper in a scene with Patton, cast as a mysterious stranger and possible con man who ambles into a sleepy Southern town.

"I hope George doesn't get too much of a swelled head when he reads this," Freiburger began, laughing, "but Will Patton said later how much he enjoyed doing the scene with George. They really worked well together."

The sixtiesomething Lee — "I was born at a very young age, so forgive me if I don't remember," he joked — has called Winston-Salem his home for the better part of 45 years. Being a working actor in Hollywood is tough. Being one in Winston-Salem is exponentially more difficult.

"There have been some lean years," Lee said. "The career has had its peaks and valleys, but in the last few years things have definitely been looking up. I've managed to do what I love to do in a place I love to live, and still make ends meet. In my younger years, I did as much as I could

that was offered to me, if for no other reason than to gain the experience, and it's starting to pay off."

"Of course," he said with a laugh, "it can all change tomorrow."

Because there is already an actor named George Lee in the Screen Actors Guild, Lee often goes by the name George Lee Masters.

His major break came when he was cast in the 1983 CBS-TV miniseries *Chiefs*, based on Stuart Woods' best-seller and directed by Jerry London (of *Shogun* renown).

Not only would he be playing one of the title police chiefs — Chief Breen, to be exact — but his major scenes would be opposite no less than Charlton Heston, another of Lee's favorite actors.

Lee laughed as he recalled their major scene together, in which they were to pass through a doorway but instead found themselves bumping into one another. Lee knew that there was a problem when he spied some of the crew checking their watches — which only made him more nervous.

"Finally, Charlton Heston — a heck of a nice guy — pulled me aside and said, 'You're a good actor, George. Just relax. Just be yourself.' It's the best piece of advice I've ever gotten and we nailed the scene, on the very next take if I remember it correctly."

Lee appeared as the neighborhood choir director on two episodes of *Matlock* and counts among his feature film roles *Hellraiser III* (1992), much of which was filmed in the Piedmont Triad; *The Program* (1993); *Getting In* (a.k.a. *Student Body*, 1994); and the 1997 USA Network TV film *My Stepson, My Lover* — hands-down Lee's favorite title of any of his projects.

Lee still receives residual checks from his film and TV work. He recently received one for the 1988 comedy *Traxx*, which starred disc jockey Shadoe Stevens as a cookie-baking super-spy. It was filmed in Wilmington and then shelved when its production company, DEG (De Laurentiis Entertain-

ment Group), went belly-up. Lee diplomatically refrains from commenting on the film — except to say that the version he saw was heavily edited.

His residual check for *Traxx* amounted to a grand total of two cents — "and the IRS took a penny out for taxes," Lee said.

"It was a milestone in my career," said a deadpan Lee. "It meant that I'd finally hit that 50 percent tax bracket."

Whether it's a role that requires a week on the set or an hour, whether it's directed by an Oscar winner or a film-school student, whether it turns out good or ... otherwise, Lee said that he's still enamored by the process.

"It's all about having fun and taking chances — and vice versa."

■ Mark Burger can be reached at 727-7370 or at mburger@wsjournal.com

Atlantic City
TRUMP PLAZA

\$159 Nov. 4 - 5
per person double occupancy
Fri.-Sat.

\$199 Dec. 2 - 4
per person double occupancy
Fri. - Sun.

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Trump Plaza/Gold Transportation
See TPA for details. Prices and times subject to change w/o notice.
MUST BE 21.

\$1 off with this ad

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slip a ticket under the tree for

Every year SECCA's galleries are transformed into a shopper's delight featuring shops from across the nation - filled with handcrafted jewelry, beautiful ornaments, tantalizing gourmet foods, educational toys, and gifts galore!

First Look Party
Wed, Oct 5, 2005 • 7pm-9:30pm

Events
Luncheon • Fashion Show • Wine Tasting

FALL COMMUNITY

Sunday, October 2, 2:00 - 4:00

Reynolda House, Museum of American Art, presents its annual **Fall Community Day**. There will be children, live entertainment, and visitors a the newly restored historic house and the Charlie Babcock Wing, featuring the collection "Diane Arbus: Family Albums." The event is open to the public.

For more information, call 758-3100 or visit the website at www.reynoldahouse.org



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Oct. 4 HARRAH'S Cherokee Casino* \$20 BONUS Event!
Oct. 9-12 DOVER DOWNS & BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY!
Oct. 14-16 Amish Country Tour: Visit Lancaster and Hershey
Oct. 14-16 Ohio Amish-World's Largest Amish Settlement
Oct. 17-18 Tri-State Race Track & Gaming Center!!
Oct. 18 Enjoy the Sights & Sounds of the NC STATE FAIR!
Oct. 18 NC State Fair: See the Spectacular Fireworks
Oct. 18 Grandfather Mountain & the Blue Ridge Parkway
Oct. 19-23 DisneyWorld, EPCOT Center, or MGM Studios
Oct. 20-23 Walking in Memphis-A Salute to Elvis!!
Oct. 23-25 Atlantic City - BALLY'S PARK PLACE! \$30 Bonus!
Oct. 28-30 Atlantic City "RED EYE"!! Casino Bonus!!
Oct. 29 Eddie Miles at The Rudy Theatre-Selma, NC!!
Oct. 29 TWEETSIE RAILROAD HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
Oct. 29 North Carolina Festival-by-the-Sea at Holders Creek
Oct. 29-30 Clogging at it's best in Maggie Valley & The Great Smoky Mountains
Nov. 5 High Country Roundup: Dinner/Dancing/Live Music
Nov. 5-6 SHOPPER'S DELIGHT! Pigeon Forge & Gatlinburg
Nov. 6-9 Atlantic City-BALLY'S PARK PLACE! \$45 Casino Bonus!
Nov. 12 Tri-State Racetrack & Gaming Center!!
Nov. 24-27 Visit DisneyWorld, EPCOT Center or MGM Studios
Nov. 25-27 Car. Opry/Legends In Concert/Alabama Theatre Christmas
Nov. 25-27 Penn-Dutch @ Christmas-See "The Miracle of the Snow"!
Nov. 25-27 The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular 3-Day!!
Dec. 1-4 NEW YORK at Christmas-NJ! Rockettes, Guided Tour
Dec. 2-4 A Country Christmas at the beautiful OPRYLAND
Dec. 3-4 Enjoy Carolina Opry & Dixie Stampede Show
Dec. 9-11 Dollywood and a Smoky Mountain Christmas!

ENTERTAINMENT

Local free-lance actor says that his working life is 'feast or famine'

By Roger Moore
JOURNAL ARTS REPORTER

There's a scene in *Hellraiser III* in which two young women can't figure out why a building they're standing in front of is closed up. A funny man with a funny dog says to them, "It's been that way for weeks," and gets a laugh when he leads the dog off camera.

The building was in High Point, which stood in for New York in this installment of the Clive Barker horror film series. The funny guy is George Lee, a local actor.

"I'm just glad the scene didn't end up on the cutting room floor," Lee said with a laugh. Lee — his real name is George L. Bowermaster — has been a fixture on local stages and airwaves since the 1950s. We last saw him in the Theatre Alliance's production of the Andrew Bergman comedy *Social Security*. He does commercial voice work and squeezes in an occasional acting job.

Tonight, he will play FBI agent Paul Stombaugh in an episode about convicted murderer Jeffrey McDonald on the premiere of *Final Appeal*, an NBC series. The show, a spin-off of *Unsolved Mysteries*, will be on WXII at 8 p.m. "They shot it in Wilmington," Lee said of the production. "Stombaugh was the agent who examined all the forensic evidence in the case and was one of the chief witnesses in the McDonald trial."



GEORGE LEE

Lee, 52, was an established radio-program host with various stations in the region, including WSJS and WTOB, when he made the jump to doing free-lance acting and voice work in 1982. "The station was making some changes, and I knew I had to come to some sort of decision about what I was going to do," he said. "I had already been free-lancing, and Winston-Salem is equidistant between Atlanta and Washington. So I thought I'd give it a try."

He does the voice tracks for TV and radio commercials and for industrial films. His work takes him to Washington, Baltimore, Virginia Beach and Atlanta.

Lee was in the CBS miniseries *Chiefs*, which was shot in South Carolina. He did *The Feud* for the PBS series *American Playhouse*, and he had a role in *Traxx*, which starred Shaddoe Stevens.

He described his working life as "feast or famine." "You might work for five days, then a week goes by when you don't work."

All the free-lancing means that Lee has a lot of down time. So he has released a rail-travel video for sale in gift shops and to railroad fans across the country.

"Two years ago, I filmed a 3½-minute promotional piece for the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad. You know, 'See the sights and ride the railroad.' With the excess footage we put together this hour-long excursion video. I put my own money up for it," he said.

So while he's waiting for that next audition notice or next commercial, Lee will be pitching the video.

"The acting jobs that come along are really icing on the cake," he said.

I think I caught a 1/10 second glimpse of Lee in this program! I watched the whole thing so I wouldn't miss him in case he might be in more - but if he was, I didn't catch it. Maybe you had better luck!

GEORGE LEE

VOICE/ON CAMERA TALENT

GEORGE LEE

P. O. BOX 5181
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 27113
(919) 723-0133

HEIGHT: 6' 2"
WEIGHT: 200
HAIR: BROWN/GRAY
EYES: BROWN

SUIT SIZE: 42L
PANT SIZE: 36W-33L
SHIRT SIZE: 16½-35
SHOE SIZE 10½D

TV COMMERCIALS:

- FOOD STORES
- AUTOMOBILES
- TRUCKS
- DRY CLEANERS
- HARDWARE
- CLINICAL
- SNACK FOODS
- ORANGE JUICE
- BANKS
- TAX FILING
- FURNITURE
- OUTLETS
- DEPARTMENT STORES
- PHONE SYSTEMS
- APPLIANCE & TV RENTAL
- JEWELRY
- NATURAL GAS
- HOSPITAL

RADIO COMMERCIALS:

- FINANCIAL
- REALTORS
- OPTICAL
- AUTOMOBILES
- DIET CENTERS
- SPORTING EQUIPMENT
- RESTAURANTS
- HARDWARE
- AIRLINES
- DEPARTMENT STORES
- OUTLET STORES
- MEAT PROCESSORS
- PLUMBING
- GENERAL RETAIL

TELEVISION:

ZACK MALONEY IN CBN'S "ANOTHER LIFE"
CHIEF BREEN IN CBS'S MINI-SERIES "CHIEFS"

PRINT AD:

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CABLE FRANCHISE
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- KAY CHEMICALS
- LOWE'S HARDWARE
- CEDARDALE HOMES
- HANES CORPORATION
- SAS INSTITUTE
- SERVICE MERCHANDISE

AWARDS:

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE ADDYS FROM 1977 TO PRESENT
HOLLYWOOD RADIO & TV SOCIETY INTL. BDCST. 1981

HOBBIES & INTERESTS:

SWIMMING, BICYCLING, MOTORCYCLING, TRAVEL, MODEL
RAILROADING, AUTOMOBILES, MUSIC

BACKGROUND:

BROADCASTING INDUSTRY
COMMUNITY THEATER (15 YEARS)

(COMPLETE LIST OF ABOVE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

GEORGE LEE

VOICE/CAMERA TALENT

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 190
Hair: Brown/Gray
Eyes: Brown

Suit Size: 41-42L
Pant Size: 36-34
Shirt Size: 16½-34
Shoe Size: 10½ D

TV COMMERCIALS: Food Fair, Winston-Salem, NC
Young Ford, Charlotte, NC
PTL Club, Charlotte, NC
Lowe's Hardware
A Cleaner World

RADIO COMMERCIALS: Delta Airlines
Blue Bell
Waffle House
Pine Hall Brick
Wachovia Bank
Optical Place
Prof. Diet Control
Sears
Curtis Packing
(Beefmaster)

INDUSTRIAL: General Telephone & Electronics*
(on Camera* R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*
& Voice Overs) J.P. Stevens*
Ruralist Press*
McLean Trucking*
Burlington Industries*
R.J. Reynolds Industries
Piedmont Airlines
Tennessee Valley Authority
IBM Corporation
Gravely Corporation

BACKGROUND: 23 Years in the Broadcasting Industry

COMMUNITY THEATER: "The Moon is Blue", "George Washington Slept Here", "Forty Carats", "Miracle Worker", "Any Wednesday", "Plaza Suite", "Mousetrap", "California Suite", "A Doll's House", Plus others.

AWARDS: (Radio Commercials)
First & Second Place Addys: Losurdos Pizza, 1977**
Third Place Addy: Curtis Packing "Cowboy", 1978**
2 First Place and 1 Third Place Addys: Blue Bell, 1979**
2 Second Place Addys: Waffle House, 1980**
2 First Place Addys: Blue Bell, 1979***
Hollywood Radio & TV Society Intl. Bolst Award:
Optical Place, 1981

** Piedmont Triad Advertising Federation, Greensboro, NC

***Triangle Advertising Federation, Raleigh, NC