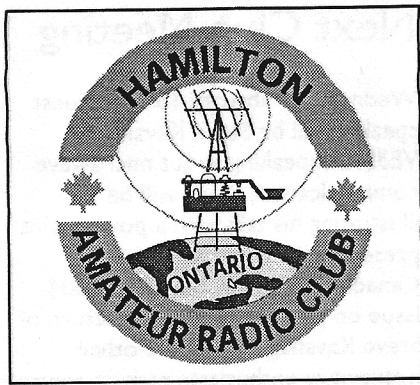


VE3 BK



The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 73 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2005

Vol. 72, No 5 — Feb. 2005

[Http://www.hwc.org/link/harc/](http://www.hwc.org/link/harc/)

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Amateur Radio Praised As Lifeline In South Asia

from the ARRL weekly e-bulletin

As the tsunami relief and recovery effort continues in South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has joined those paying tribute to Amateur Radio's ongoing emergency communication role. Director and Executive Vice Chairman S. Suri, VU2MY, of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), noted January 5 that the PM "was all praise for hams in India and the entire world who helped us in this hour of need." Suri said the administrator of hard-hit Car Nicobar Island has asked NIAR to keep on duty Rama Mohan, VU2MYH, and five other radio amateurs who have been providing communication with the island since shortly after the December 26 disaster.

"The district administration chief of Car Nicobar Island spoke to me this morning to say even now it is only the ham communication that is aiding them for relief and rehabilitation measures," Suri said in an e-mail to Jay Wilson, W0AIR, of the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) and shared with ARRL. Mohan, who had received DERA training in the US, was part of NIAR's VU4NRO/VU4RBI DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. When the earthquake and tsunami struck the region, DXpedition team leader Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, promptly

shifted the operation to handle emergency traffic and health-and-welfare inquiries between the island and the Indian mainland. More than 20 Indian radio amateurs are said to be involved in providing emergency communication support in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Ironically, until the recent NIAR DXpedition the Indian government did not allow Amateur Radio operation from the islands. It's since cleared the way for all Indian hams to operate from VU4.

In the disaster's immediate aftermath, Suri said, Mohan and other DXpedition team members risked their lives to alert the chief of administration on Andaman Island, since tsunami waves later overran the road they'd traveled. NIAR staff member Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, was providing emergency communication remote Hutbay Island.

Now back on the Indian mainland, Bharathi Prasad has reported that the VU4NRO/VU4RBI logs are safe and at NIAR headquarters, and QSLing will commence once the emergency operation concludes. DXer Charly Harpole, K4VUD/HS0ZCW, now in Bangkok, Thailand, told The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> that QSL cards already are showing up at NIAR.

Harpole, who was visiting the DXpedition in Port Blair on Andaman Island when the earthquake and tsunami hit, has since been helping to handle emergency traffic from Thailand, where his wife's family lives. "I have been listening to the traffic from VU4 back to the India mainland, and by now

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
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 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month (except July and August) – 8 pm in the Hamilton District Christian High School, 92 Glancaster Road at the corner of Rymal Road (Hwy. #53) and Glancaster Road. Parking on location. Complimentary refreshments.

meeting Feb. 16/2005
 page 1

it is smooth as silk with lots of H&W and some government messages running almost constantly," he said in an e-mail made available by QRZ DX <<http://www.dxpub.com/>> Editor Carl Smith, N4AA. Harpole advised amateurs worldwide to avoid the primary emergency traffic frequency of 14.190 MHz.

In Thailand, Harpole reports, hams have been using mostly 2 meters for their emergency traffic "and doing a huge job." He said he's heard very little from Bangladesh, and nothing from Sumatra and Burma (Myanmar). The earthquake's epicenter was some 100 miles off Sumatra, a part of Indonesia.

Just three days after the calamitous tsunami, Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) President Victor Goonetilleke, 4S7VK, declared that "uncomplicated short wave" radio had saved lives.

"Ham radio played an important part and will continue to do so," he said in an e-mail relayed to ARRL. Goonetilleke said Sri Lanka's prime minister had no contact with the outside world until Amateur Radio operators stepped in. "Our control center was inside the prime minister's official house in his operational room," he recounted. "[This] will show how they valued our services."

Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR, in Calcutta, said improvisation was "the name of the game" in the emergency's aftermath. "Hams had to switch to good old CW and switch frequencies from 14.190 and 14.160 MHz to 7.090 MHz," he said. Majumdar noted that hams from all over "have been checking into the VU emergency nets and extending their fullest cooperation in the truest spirit of Amateur Radio."

According to the latest estimate, more than 150,000 people died as a result of the tsunami, about one-third of them children.

Although the US does not have third-party traffic agreements with any of the countries affected by the disaster, international emergency and disaster

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relief communications are permitted unless otherwise provided. While FCC Part 97 has not yet been updated to reflect revisions to third-party traffic rules at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, FCC staff has told ARRL that if the government agencies responsible for the Amateur Service in affected countries do not object to their amateur stations receiving messages from US amateur stations on behalf of third parties, the US has no objection to its amateur stations transmitting international communications in support of the disaster.

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday February 16th our guest speaker will be Steve Kavanagh VE3SMA speaking about microwave communication. Steve will be illustrating his talk with a powerpoint presentation. If you look at The Canadian Amateur, Nov/Dec 2004 issue on page 6 you'll see a picture of Steve Kavanagh and some other microwave enthusiasts with an example of microwave antenna and transceiver equipment, set up at a recent event.

Visitors are welcome. If you know someone who might be interested in attending a HARC meeting, or if you live near someone who might benefit from a ride please consider contacting them.

Ham Radio Contesting for Beginners

Author, Ann Tekatch, VA3NOE, is a new HAM and a member of HARC since earning her Basic + 5 WPM qualification early in 2004. Ann is also on the VE3NCF, Tuesday Check-In Net reading the RAC Bulletin.

I love participating in Ham radio contests! They are a great way to make contacts on HF, VHF or UHF. I didn't set out to be a contester, I kind of fell into the role during the Ontario QSO party in the spring of 2004. I often get very shy after listening to all those experienced, slick HAM radio operators on the bands. I feel like a total newbie and just can't get my fingers to push that PTT button on my mic! What appealed to me about the Ontario QSO party was the fact that I didn't have to say anything other than give my call sign, a signal report and my county. I felt confident enough to tackle that and soon even tried a CQ of my own. (Which I totally screwed up - saying "CQ kwontest" instead of "CQ contest"! My daughter was listening to me and she collapsed into gales of laughter. Of course, I couldn't keep a

straight face either and cracked up on the air! Fortunately, no one responded to my mangled call or I would have been mortified!

After getting my feet wet in the Ontario QSO party with a grand total of 6 contacts (!), I waded into the RAC Canada Day party and made a huge (for me!) number of contacts (30) and I was hooked. Now I eagerly look forward to contests. They are great fun and a terrific boost to this newbie's confidence. I've QSO'd with folks from the Yukon, British Columbia and Newfoundland and I've made it as far south as Puerto Rico. This is probably pretty tame stuff for you experienced Hams, but for me it's been thrilling.

I highly recommend contesting to all newly licensed amateurs. Many contests involve 6meters, 2 meters, 70 centimeters and above, so even if you aren't licensed for the HF bands, you can still participate in many contests. Upcoming contests are listed in CQ Magazine and QST Magazine. On the web, try: www.contesting.com; <http://www.qsl.net/ccol>; or check out the Contesting section of RAC's website: www.rac.ca.

Each contest has its own rules about what information must be exchanged in a contact. You can get this information from the above websites or in the magazines. Your callsign and a signal report are common to all contests. The third piece of information can be your county or province or a sequential number starting from 001 for each QSO. You will need a pencil and paper to record any QSO's you make: date & time (in Universal Time); frequency; your transmitter power; the sent and received signal reports; etc. I always listen to the contesting activity for awhile before jumping in so that I can figure out what is going on. It also helps to listen to a contester as he calls CQ and responds to other stations. You then know in advance most of the information he is going to give you (eg. his callsign, QTH, etc.).

This month there are a couple of contests:

North American QSO Party SSB :
January 15 (1800 UT) - January 16
(0600 UT) (website: www.ncjweb.com)
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes: Jan.22
(1900 UT) - Jan. 24 (0400 UT);
(website: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>)

Try it - you'll like it! Hopefully we'll meet on the air. If we do, please send me a QSL card - I'm still waiting to receive my first one!!!!

73 de VA3NOE

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

Well well a new year. Feels good. Where to go what to do now. How about feed lines. They cost a lot of money right? Give a thought to TV twin lead? Look up the losses at different frequencies. You may be surprised. For an antenna you can easily make a folded dipole 300 ohms, cheap any kind of wire. Use a 4 to one balun. The balun can easily be made from RG8 coax cable, every one has a small piece kicking around the ubiquitous junk box. (UbiquitousI had to get out the dictionary you can too. Or you can GOOGLE it.) Maybe Mardy would put in a couple of diagrams here. This will work on 2 meters I know.....cuz I been there done that. It worked good until the wheel fell off way up in the airone of the leads I mean of course. I was just thinking about the old saying...I had a wagon until one day the wheel fell off.

How about NAME TAGS ?

Lets get the old tags out and wear them at the meetings. It would sure help us old timers who tend to forget your name if we haven't seen you lately or maybe we just met you. However lets make those tags big enough. I know that lately we have not had access to "Badge Man". I have a homemade badge which I will bring to a meeting

Of course you can see the above two paras were written when

the new year was very fresh. Now my thoughts are turning to < Love >. Yes love love love. Well valentines anyway. It was about twenty five years ago. I was a new ham. My Heathkit SB102 station was in the cellar up against a wall near a window. The following appeared in the Spectator on Valentines day:

VE3EKY

*Spice and mustard I don't mind,
But too much ham makes me whine.
Let's dine with candles and wine,
Without static, skip or IC chips.
Won't you be my Valentine,
minus electronic dit dot dits ?
THE LADY UPSTAIRS*

I think I may have responded with a card which said:

*I know you probably were expecting,
A mushy card; don't whine.
Just dip this one in WATER,
and I'll be your Valentine.
73 BEN*

Those were the days my friend, we thought they would never end. We were going in to an up sun spot cycle and it was a great one you could work the world every day and we quickly became blasé. I don't think this last cycle was all that great at least by comparison. So getting your HF privileges now your a little late but never too late. Hope springs eternal. We won't stay down in the dumps too long; another cycle is coming.

How about a few Emails to < berngran@hwc.org >. A prized few got their HF endorsement recently. What are you doing with it? Come on.....go public...I'll pass it on. Don't be bashful...you're among friends. How about ILRP, has anyone contacted Antarctica yet? Their node is first on the web list. I'd do it myself but I haven't got on to programming my coveted IC T7H. Tell me again about tones, subaudible I mean. There was something in one of the feature columns of TCA a few months back. The scribbler was crying about trying to program his new HT. I'm sure he must have been talking about my T7H. If my old Yaesu 209 had a tone board in it I

would see about getting its battery rebuilt. Radio Shack says don't throw away your old radio get us to rebuild your old battery. Has anyone ever took them up on it at least to find HOW MUCH. I went in the local the other day to get a watch battery for my wife. They said we're selling Ray-o-vac now I said whats the difference. He got one out for me and said that would be \$8.95 plus tax. I said Ruth would kill me; you can buy a new watch for ten dollars. Anyway Ruth walked up a few stores to Shoppers Drug Mart and bought a new one for \$3.95 incl. tax. WOW I mean what was that battery made of or for. Just for fun I'm going to take Radio shack up on their battery build and see HOW MUCH!!!

es dats all about dis fer nw
73 – Bernie, VE3EKY

ps have a look at your calendar, Ash
Wednesday is shown on February 9th.
Can spring be that far away EH ? EH! bg

Third Party Communications Regarding Tsunami Disaster Areas

RAC Bulletin 04-032E (Dec. 29 2004)

In the wake of the Tsunami/Earthquake Disaster, in response to questions from Canadian radio amateurs, Industry Canada has advised RAC as follows: Canada has no objections to its licensed radio amateurs passing international communications on behalf of third parties in support of an emergency or disaster relief in the countries affected by the recent tsunami and earthquake, provided that the affected country allows its radio amateurs to carry on such a communication. This is in keeping with the recent "FINAL ACTS WRC-03 WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (GENEVA, 2003)" where paragraph 25.3 (2) states that

Important points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August, at Mohawk College in room E031B. All members are invited to attend and participate. The meetings are on the Tuesday following the club General Meeting each month.

VE3NCF [146.760- & 444.075+]

HARC operates VE3NCF repeater, located atop the Niagara Escarpment. It's open for use by all Amateurs. Special features are a privilege of membership.

Nets

HARC "check-in net" is held every Tuesday evening, except July and August, at 7:30pm. HARC "swap net" follows at 8pm. The ARES net is held on Thursdays at 8:00pm. All contacts are welcome.

Examinations

Amateur radio licence examinations are conducted the second Wednesday each month, except July and August. Contact the voluntary examiners to make an appointment. Each test \$5.

Membership Information

Club membership, including all privileges, is \$25 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is \$1 per person. One newsletter sent to each address.

The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur is published ten times each year (not in July or August). Deadline for article submission is the *last Saturday* of the month for the next month's issue. Preferred format is .txt file. Articles will be checked for spelling and grammar, but the author is responsible for the factual content. E-mail submissions to Mardy, VE3QEE < ve3qee@rac.ca >

"Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this

provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction." Under normal circumstances, Canadian radio amateurs must respect the third-party agreements and arrangements noted in Industry Canada's Radiocommunication Information Circular RIC-3 - Issue 2, dated April 2002.

Canada has concluded agreements or arrangements with the following countries to permit the transmission and reception of international communications by Canadian amateurs on behalf of third parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Under normal circumstances radio amateurs in Canada are obliged to respect these agreements.

(RAC News Service)

Minutes of the General Meeting for January 19, 2005

by secretary, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

Minutes of the January 19, 2005 General Meeting

President Mardy VE3QEE convened the meeting at 8:00pm. Mardy introduced a guest who had recently acquired his ticket.

Fred VE3GCP introduced our guest speaker, Don Graziano VE3OCY. Don has been a HAM since 1983 and a 20-year member of HARC. He owns and operates the Walter Smith Company, which maintains sophisticated metering equipment at several major industries in the Hamilton area. Don has done

many presentations in the past years. Some of his memorable presentations were the construction of power supplies, the relative advantages and disadvantages of the different types of power supplies and the construction of home brew projects.

Don talked at length about antenna test equipment and what matching is all about. The two topics he covered were:

Tuning: making the antenna resonate at a chosen frequency

Matching: passing maximum power from the transceiver to the antenna

Mathematically Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) is a complex formula. Maximum power is passed to the antenna when the input impedance (Z_{in}) is equal to the output impedance (Z_{out}). In this circumstance the SWR is unity (1). It was pointed out that SWR is a function of frequency, so an antenna matched with a SWR of 1.5 at 14.250 Mhz will not have the same SWR if the frequency is moved up to 14.350Mhz.

Don indicated that his favourite meter for antenna/transmission line performance is the cross needle SWR/Power meter. The Bird SWR meter is probably the industry standard, but is very costly. Note that if one is found at a flea market, ensure that the switch slugs are present for the frequency bands of interest. They slugs are very expensive and difficult to find at flea markets.

A tip from one the HAMS in the audience was to sweep up or down the band (at low power, and if the band is quiet) and the SWR meter will indicate whether the antenna needs to be cut or lengthened.

Bulletin Articles. Please give some thought to putting together an article for the club bulletin. The article could be about an interesting repair job you have done on a rig, a difficult antenna project, or a funny QSO. We would really appreciate letting our fellow members hear your stories.

HARC 2004-2005 Chairs

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Flea Market

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Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ
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and
Ilona Davidson VE3UGM

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Newsletter

open position

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Neil Galloway VE3VNG
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Repeater

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
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Swap Net Control

Frank Love VA3FWL
905-679-4524

Gord Barber showed the group his first amateur radio certificate issued April 1st 1932. It came from the "Department of Marine". Gord also showed his first log book, a 4" x 6 1/2" pocket scribbler outlining the contacts he made at that time. He discovered these items while organizing stuff at home. Members were quite impressed to see these original documents from a bygone era. Some members suggested it would be wonderful if those items could be preserved for all to see at some place like the Hammond Museum. Thanks to Gord for sharing his discovery with us.

Adjournment
10:00 PM

C.E.R.V. Members Receive Amateur Radio Training

Information submitted by AI, VA3AM

The City of Hamilton has a civilian volunteer group sanctioned by the province known as C.E.R.V., which stands for Community Emergency Response Volunteers. These volunteers are trained to respond where the city

needs volunteers in an emergency. The members of C.E.R.V. have First Aid training as well as other skills geared to emergency civilian response. However, one thing the C.E.R.V. group lacks is a radio capability to communicate among volunteers. Several options were considered: (1) trunked radios borrowed from the City, (2) commercial radios, or (3) GMRS/FRS radios. Trunked radios could be in short supply during an emergency; commercial radio units and frequency licensing are costly, and the other options did not meet technical requirements very well.

It was recognized that Amateur radio equipment could also fill this need and the Radiocommunication Regulations permit Amateur Radio communication in support of real or simulated

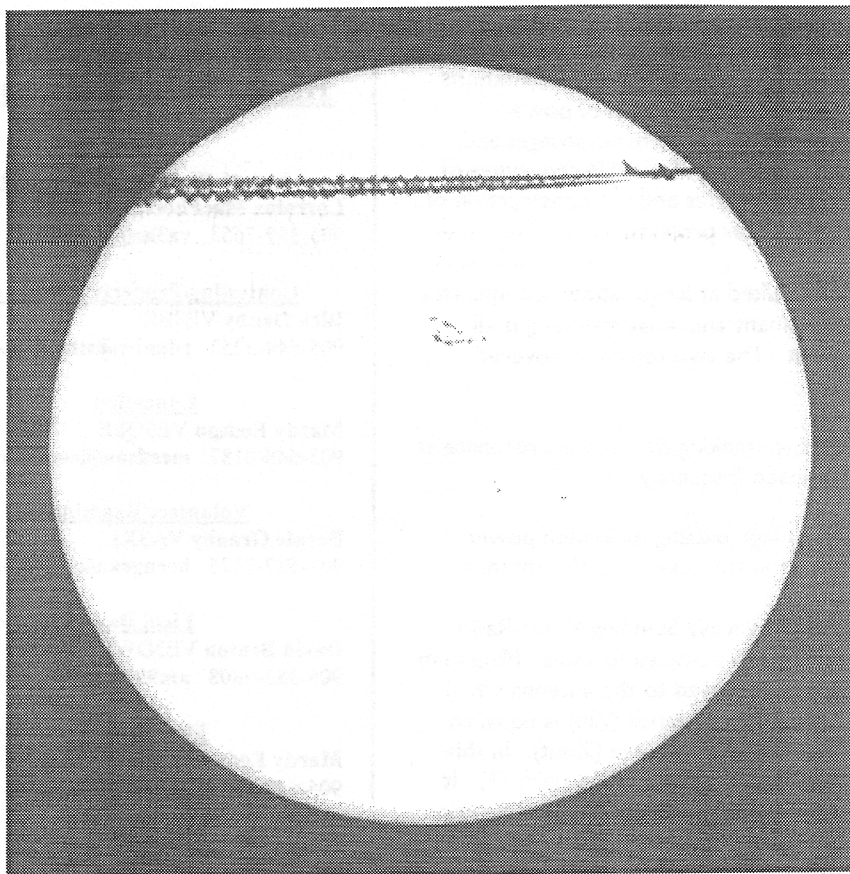
emergencies so we decided to approach the members of C.E.R.V. to see if any of them would consider becoming qualified Radio Amateurs to form a core within the C.E.R.V. group to support the communication needs of C.E.R.V.

During their training, people in the C.E.R.V group have shown an interest in Amateur Radio whenever talks were given. This gave us the idea to get Ham radio volunteers from a different source, from within the C.E.R.V. group. As the C.E.R.V. group is already made up of volunteers, that approach seemed to make sense. It was decided to ask the City Emergency Preparedness person and see if he would be receptive to having some of the volunteers trained and licensed. As he already knows a number of HAMs who participate in emergency exercises and yearly displays he was delighted. When, the C.E.R.V. group was polled we had 32 applicants expressing interest. Of that initial number, there are now 16 students studying to become Radio Amateurs. Classes are taking place Monday evenings at Dofasco. The course facilitators are Bill Bouwhuis, VE3YR, Al MacPherson, VA3AM, Lorraine MacPherson, VA3NZ and Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO. It is hoped that in a few months there will be a core of new Radio Amateurs who are already active in C.E.R.V.

The advantages to this approach are that a group of new Radio Amateurs, will be trained with knowledge of specialized emergency procedures. This group can provide for the communication needs of C.E.R.V. as well as bring an entirely new group of responsible, enthusiastic, and young amateurs into the Amateur Radio community. We are excited because it promises to be a "win" situation all 'round.

Picture

Above, is a picture of the sun showing, in the center, giant sunspot 720 along with a passing airplane. The scene was photographed by amateur astronomer Jan Koeman of the Netherlands on Jan.



15, 2005 and published on the <<http://www.spaceweather.com/>> site. The giant sunspot 720, exploded on January 20th and bombarded us with the strongest proton shower in 15 years. It has now rotated around to the back side of the sun. During times of increased solar activity, propagation conditions change and often improve openings on the higher bands like 6 meters.

In Fond Memory--- Pillsbury

Anonymous submission

It is with the saddest of hearts that I pass on the following news. Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection, and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71. Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough, two children, John Dough and

Jane Dough, who has a bun in the oven. He is also survived by his eiderly father, Pop Tart.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Buttersworth, Hungry Jack, The California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies and Captain Crunch. The grave site was piled high with flours. Aunt Jemima, accompanied by her husband Uncle Ben, delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very smart "cookie", wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he still, as a crusty old man, was considered a roll model for millions.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes