



WESTONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1990

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MEL JASS GUEST SPEAKER

MAY 21, 1990

8:00 P.M.

MOUND DEPOT
BARTLETT BLVD., MOUND

Spotlight

Mel Jass

Age: 70

Family: Wife, Lorraine (nickname "Peter"); sons, Tom, Dave, Paul, Danny; daughter, Debby.

Occupation: Free-lance radio and television announcer; hosted "Mel's Matinee" for WTCN Channel 11 for 22 years; hosted "Mel's Morning Movie" in Los Angeles for four years. Began radio career in 1939.

Residence: Mound

My home away from home is: Our motor home.

The best and worst movies I ever hosted were: The worst movie I almost hosted was one that was scheduled to play on Good Friday but I cancelled it. Some idiot had scheduled "The Disembodied Man." The best movie I ever hosted was "The Old Man and the Sea" starring Spencer Tracy. It's a classic. Nothing can approach it.

The best and worst parts of my job were: The worst parts were the long hours and not having enough time to spend with my family. The best part was that the Lord Jesus allowed me to make a good living at what I love to do.

When I was a child, I wanted to be: In some form of show business.

I admire: Jesus —the Holy Lord in the flesh. I'd never read the Bible until after I was 40 and before that I thought old Mel had all the answers. But when I started reading the scriptures I saw my name on every page. It changed my life.

The accomplishment I'm most proud of is: Since becoming a Christian, my biggest joy has been introducing co-workers to Jesus.

I learned the most about business from: Ed Craney, who was the first man I ever worked for in radio in 1939. He owned three or four radio stations out in the West.



When I daydream, I often think about: My youth and how at the time I thought I was so badly treated and really I wasn't. I grew up with none of the material advantages and the Lord helped me make a good living.

I'm sometimes embarrassed for: The person who uses foul language.

My wish is to: Be caring and loving to my fellow man.

I'm irritated by: I can't think of a thing in the world that irritates me.

I think television is: God's greatest gift to mankind if we continue to use it for good instead of just trying to entertain the prurient interests of people.

At the next meeting of the Westonka Historical Society, the guest speaker will be Mel Jass, who has been a resident of the Westonka area for many years, and who will have many interesting memories to tell of his experiences in this area and elsewhere.

The news item included here is a reprint of a "Spotlight" article on Mel Jass that appeared two or three years ago in the Sailor newspaper.

The program will begin at **8:00 p.m.**, membership meeting at **7:30 p.m.** Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program. This should be a very interesting meeting. Please come and tell your friends about this special program.

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Last month's program on April 16th, with Melvin Gimmestad, was videotaped, and will be shown on Channel 20 at 8:30 p.m., on May 30, 1990.