

So Long

It was never goodbye. It seems that whenever Dick Clark signed off for any of his broadcasts, it would be with his traditional salute and his familiar "This is Dick Clark... so long." Whether it be the myriad incarnations of the original Pyramid game show, "Bloopers and Practical Jokes" (along side another icon, Ed McMahon), his 30+ years of hosting his own Rockin' New Year's Eve show, the "oldest living teenager" seemed to have his hand in every aspect of every show he was associated with. I was not around to really enjoy the heyday of American Bandstand; however, popular music owes the show and the man most associated with it a huge debt. Bandstand not only brought rock'n'roll to teenage homes on Saturdays but also broke the color barrier by showcasing acts like Chubby Checker, Sam Cooke, the Supremes, Gladys Knight and the Pips, amongst others.

Today, Mr. Clark bid his final *adieu* after suffering a massive heart attack at the age of 82. I'm not sure which I remember him more from. Every New Years for as long as I can remember, the TV was tuned to ABC from 11:35PM onward to witness whatever elements were being thrown on Times Square to ring in the New Year. Until the last few years (after he suffered a stroke), Clark was in the thick of rain, snow, sleet, or 60°+ degree weather counting down the minutes until the ball would drop from atop Number One Times Square to ring out the old and bring in the new.

From time to time, I catch reruns of the many Pyramid shows on GSN. Others have attempted to recapture the success of the original but have failed for whatever reason.

While I was not alive in the 50 and 60s, I do remember seeing some of the hit artists of the 80s on Bandstand. From Michael to Janet to (I'm almost embarrassed to say) Prince, and Madonna AB was a staple after cartoons ended.

HOWEVER... I have been trying to recollect if Mr. Clark had one of those famous "poke their head out the window" cameos on Batman visitng Gotham City from his home Philadelphia way.
SURE ENOUGH!

Rest in Peace, Mr. Clark. May you ring in the New Year for eternity.

New Year First Post

Last night was another fantastic celebration at our semi-weekly gathering place. Everyone brought food or spirits to indulge in. Friends who do not usually frequent our game nights came to share in the festivities. I went with my lingering effects from a visit by Uncle Larry N. Gitis. Honestly, I feel fine but my voice says otherwise. I remember losing my voice years ago a few weekends before I auditioned for a summer position at Cedar Point. I made the audition, sang my audition piece and was asked to come back a half-hour later for the dance portion of the try out. Unfortunately, my graceful choreographic ability failed to impress... their loss, right?

While playing charades, which my team was winning (thank you very much) the time had arrived to watch Ryan Seacrest announce the ball drop. Dick Clark made an appearance from the studio; however, the damage done by his stroke of a few years ago is still apparent. I noticed an almost plastic appearance to Mr. Seacrest. Not sure if it was the lighting or makeup but he just looked weird. Speaking of charades, I do not think that the movie or novel Return of the King is obscure. It was a title given to one of the other two teams but I thought it was a very good suggestion. My gracefulness was put to good use in my acting out the movie title Last Tango in Paris.

Shortly thereafter, we read some Weakest Link questions. I tried to keep quiet to allow others to answer. However, I

heard some moaners from the other players imploring me to wait until the question was read. Finally, we moved on to some Outburst, and thank goodness for the arrival of our final player because some of the questions were beyond my expertise. By the time we had arrived to an I.Q. testing game, I was lying on the floor.

But like last year, it was a great end to the old and beginning of the new. There was no other place I wanted to be. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season and wish everyone the best in 2009.