# Ed Herlihy

Edward Joseph "Ed" Herlihy was born August 14, 1909 in Boston Massachusetts. He was an American newsreel narrator, a long-time radio and television announcer which included a brief term as announcer on The Tonight Show.

Graduating from Boston College in 1932, he gained his first radio job in his home town, at Boston's WLOE. In 1935, he was hired by NBC and left for New York, along with his friend, fellow Boston announcer Frank Gallop, who was hired by CBS. They would share an apartment on West 45th Street.

Herlihy was immediately successful in network radio, at that time in its sharpest ascendancy. He was the announcer for many radio shows from the 1930s, to the 1950s, among them: America's Town Meeting, The Big Show, The Falcon, and Mr. District Attorney. He became the host of the The Horn and Hardart Children's Hour on radio in 1948, remaining its announcer as the show transitioned to television. He continued his success in the new medium: his early television credits included Sid Caesar's hit Your Show of Shows and soap operas As the World Turns and All My Children. He was also the host of Recollections At 30, which was a special NBC Radio series created for the network's 30th birthday.

In the 1940’s, Herlihy was well known for his work on Universal Newsreels. He narrated editions describing the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Allies' early setbacks against the Axis powers, the turning of the tide of WWII, the death of President Roosevelt, and the detonation of the first atomic bombs. In the next decade, during the Cold War, he narrated the very first American newsreel on the launch of Sputnik.

In 1947 Herlihy began his long association with Kraft Foods on radio, and continued it when the company sponsored the Kraft Television Theater on television in the 1950s. This role lasted nearly 40 years, his voice becoming as familiar as a next-door neighbor's. From his New York Times obituary: "He liked to recall a summer day in Times Square when he helped a blind man to cross at 44th Street. He took the man's arm, and the man said it was a beautiful day. "Yes," Herlihy replied, "this is the kind of day the Lord made for the good guys." The blind man replied: "I know you. You're the cheese man on TV.""

When he worked for Sid Caesar in the 1950s, Herlihy met Woody Allen, then a fledgling writer. Allen was so impressed with Herlihy's voice that he used him in several of his films in the 1980s, including Hannah and Her Sisters, Radio Days, and Zelig; his other film credits included Martin Scorsese's The King of Comedy and Tim Burton's Pee-wee's Big Adventure.

He also appeared in road company stage productions outside New York City, including Camelot, Good News and Damn Yankees. He was in Watergate: The Musical, in Atlanta in 1982; Herlihy played Senator Sam Ervin, a role for which he spent $40 for a pair of bushy eyebrows, only to find that they would not move up and down.

Herlihy made his last TV appearance on a PBS in the 1999 show *N.Y. TV: By the People Who Made It*. His first wife, Jeanne Graham, would pass away in 1970. He was survived by his second wife, Fredi. He had two daughters, Lori and Jeanne, and two sons, Donald and Stephen. Herlihy died of natural causes in Manhattan, New York on January 30, 1999. He was 89.

Information for this biography was taken from the New York Times Online, from the Internet Movie Database, and from Wikipedia.