

# **FRANK BECERRA**

Frank Becerra, who studied art with the Class of 1945 at White Plains High School, captured the humor, drama and spirit of Westchester County across five decades as chief cartoonist for Westchester newspaper.

Following graduation Mr. Becerra spent three years as a radioman in the U.S. Coast Guard, using his free time to turn out drawings and paintings of his fellow crew members and of Coast Guard life. After military service, he studied art at the Arts Student League in New York under the G.I. Bill of Rights. In 1954, after a stint as a commercial artist for advertising agencies and art studios, Mr. Becerra joined the May Westchester Newspaper Group as art director and staff artist. Initially he was responsible for creating ads for national magazines promoting the newspaper group and Westchester County.

His role as "staff artists" grew in importance as Mr. Becerra was called upon to execute a diverse range of artwork from courtroom sketches to political and sports cartoons. It was his cartoons of sports events, both local and national, which earned him the most response and recognition.

In addition to the Westchester newspapers, he created cartoons and illustrations for NBS, the N.Y. Football Giants, *The National Lampoon*, *Sport Magazine*, *Field and Stream*, the Museum of Trotters, the Metropolitan Golf Association and many others. In 1982, he was selected for the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Becerra retired in 1992 from the Gannet Suburban Newspapers after 38 years, but is still called upon for occasional free-lance cartoon work. He most enjoys the time he now has to paint watercolors of old barns and the many places he visits.