



CLASS OF

1948

BILL OWEN

Bill Owen was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on February 1, 1931 and moved to Bismarck in 1942 as a seventh-grader. He lettered in track and was a starter on two American Legion state runners-up baseball teams. He was editor of the Hi-Herald and was featured in many Bismarck High stage productions.

After graduating from the University of Southern California and serving in the U.S. Air Force in Europe, Bill became sports director at KFJR Radio and TV where he also became a TV cowboy host of a daily children's program as "Marshal Bill." His broadcasting career later took him to Cincinnati and eventually to ABC in New York where he spent thirty years. The highlight of his time at ABC was host of the weekly children's program "Discovery," which involved traveling throughout the world.

Bill's sportscasting duties included subbing for Howard Cosell for ten years.

Bill was also at times a rock and roll disc jockey, an opera commentator, and a newscaster. In addition, he starred as "Ellery Queen" on a syndicated radio series and later became widely known as "The King of Trivia" from daily appearances on ABC-TV from 1982-1990.

He is the co-author of the first encyclopedia of radio, "The Big Broadcast," and has written several other books including *The Over 60 Trivia Book*, *All Those Things My Teacher Never Told Me!* and *Dropping Names, 60 Plus Years of Broadcasting Memories*.

Bill and his South Carolina-born wife Rosemary became ardent ballroom dancers and devoted bridge players. Their three children Carolyn, Richard, and Lisa were born respectively in North Dakota, Ohio, and New York.

