

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader recalls meeting Dick Clark in mid-1950s

In the mid-1950s, it was Career Day at Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Penn. Twenty of us signed up for Radio and TV.

The expert was Dick (never Richard) Clark. He was the rookie staff announcer (remember when there were hourly breaks giving the station's call letters?)

for WFIL (the FIL stood, cleverly, for Philadelphia).

No one knew who he was because so far he was no one. But he charmed us. He sat on the corner of the teachers desk with one leg dangling to the floor. His speech was more a conversation — accompanied by that infectious smile. We were mesmerized.

Clark did not start "American Bandstand." The original host made a few

moral mistakes that called for an immediate replacement. Fortune smiled.

Later as more success came he started a business. It was dick clark productions. So typical of him to keep the title in lower case.

That was the Dick Clark we high schoolers saw: engaging, friendly and unassuming.

**Star Carey
Canyon Lake**