

## TODAY'S QUOTE

"Experience has taught me that the only cruelties people condemn are those with which they do not happen to be familiar."

Ellen Glasgow

# PEACH PLUS

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO ■ MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005

**TODAY'S CHUCKLE**  
Most people can accept good advice gracefully ... as long as it doesn't interfere with their plans.

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**RUSS LEMMON**

MEDIA

## Retirement's in forecast for Carlson

With a transfer of ownership looming at WTOL-TV, Channel 11, Dave Carlson figured now would be a good time to try something different.

He said he went through three ownership changes while working for Toledo's Channel 24 (first WDHO, then WNWO) from 1973 to 1988, and "I really didn't want to go through that again."

So in early October, a little more than a month after Raycom Media Inc. announced its intention to purchase the 15 stations owned by Liberty Corp. (including WTOL), Carlson decided to accept the retirement package offered by the station.

He will end his 32-year career as a Toledo television weathercaster on Dec. 31.

Carlson said that like anyone facing retirement, he is "a little bit antsy" about what lies ahead.

"On Jan. 1, I'll probably say, 'What have I done?'"

For now, though, he is at peace with his decision.

"The hair is a lot grayer, and the lines are a lot deeper. Maybe it's time to not be on television as much," said Carlson, who declined to give his age. "Not only that, but not having to govern my day around an alarm clock is a very intriguing thought."

Carlson joined WTOL in 1988, and he did the weather segments on the weekday morning and noon newscasts for the next 16-plus years. (In January, his primary role changed to weekend weathercaster.) In addition, he has been on the two-hour *AM Saturday*—doing the weather and promoting community events at remotes—since its launch in 1993.

"Dave is a genuinely nice

## MUSIC



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Tom Petty, left, jams with Howie Epstein, a former member of his band The Heartbreakers.

# He's not backing down

## Rocker Tom Petty is still going strong after nearly 30 years

By GARY GRAFF

NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

Tom Petty has told us, through song, that he won't back down. Apparently he won't let up, either.

With the 30th anniversary of his recording career looming in 2006, the 55-year-old Petty is working as hard as any rookie rocker. He and his band, the Heartbreakers, have played 40 shows this year to 750,000 people. He's the subject of a new book, *Conversations with Tom Petty*, and is in the midst of recording his third solo album.

Petty has also done a full season's worth of voice work for *Lucky*, his character on the Fox cartoon series *King of the Hill*, while *Buried Treasures*, his program on the XM satellite-radio network, has been renewed for a second season. A Heartbreakers live album is in the works as well, and Petty is hatching plans for a 30th-anniversary documentary.

The singer/songwriter, who has three children from two marriages, is surprised that he's still maintaining this kind of workload, but he's not complaining.

"Thirty years ago, when the band

started, there weren't a lot of rock stars in their 50s," he says. "I don't think there were many even in their 40s. You didn't look at it as a job you'd do your whole life. I remember thinking at one point, 'Boy, if this goes on for five years this would be quite a run.'"

"Then we hit five years, and I remember thinking, 'Man, if this goes on 10 years, it'd be incredible!'"

A native of Gainesville, Fla., Petty began his musical career in 1967, when he quit high school to join the band Mudcrutch, which also included future Heartbreakers Mike Campbell on guitar and Benmont Tench on keyboards.

"My mother used to tell me the staple that 'You'd better have something to fall back on,'" Petty recalls with a laugh. "And I used to tell her, 'I ain't going to fall back. There will be no falling back.'"

Mudcrutch moved to Los Angeles in the early 1970s and signed a recording contract, but the band broke up before it could finish the album. Petty was offered a solo deal, but wound up putting together the Heartbreakers in time for their self-titled debut album in 1976. The terse, spare single "Breakdown"

crept into the Top 40 a year after the album's release, and its success gave Petty & Co. a foothold that has led to a steady stream of hits such as "Don't Do Me Like That" (1979), "Refugee" (1979), "You Got Lucky" (1982) "Don't Come Around Here No More" (1985) and many others.

Petty and the Heartbreakers also toured in the 1980s as Bob Dylan's back-up band and recorded the soundtrack for the 1996 Edward Burns film *She's the One*. Petty stepped out of the band to record two successful solo albums — "Full Moon Fever" (1989), which featured the hit "I Won't Back Down," and "Wildflowers" (1994) — and also to join the Traveling Wilburys, a rock "supergroup" that also featured Dylan, George Harrison, Roy Orbison, and former Electric Light Orchestra leader Jeff Lynne.

Those were ample credentials for Petty and the Heartbreakers to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002, an honor which he admits "touched" him, even though celebrating the past is not usually his style.

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## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Monday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2005. There are 19 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1897, *The Katzenjammer Kids*, the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the Mona Lisa, stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

In 1925, the first motel — the Motel Inn — opened in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

In 1937, a Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1975, Sara Jane Moore pleaded guilty to a charge of trying to kill President Ford in San Francisco the previous September.

In 1995, by three votes, the Senate killed a constitutional amendment that would have given Congress authority to outlaw flag burning and other forms of desecration against Old Glory.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

TV host Bob Barker is 82. Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch is 81. Singer Connie Francis is 67. Singer Dionne Warwick is 65. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 62. Actor Wings Hauser is 58. Country singer LaCosta is 55.



Bob Barker

# Petty

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"Well, it always means something when people give you a slap on the back," Petty says. "I feel that sometimes we're almost taken for granted. I think, if the group had broken up 10 years ago, 20 years ago, it might be different. But when you're there year after year and you stay consistent, sometimes you wonder if anybody notices.

"I guess, when I was a kid, I might've been cynical about awards," he says. "But as I've grown older, I figure if they're giving it to me, I may as well enjoy it."

Petty also embraced the process of putting together "Conversations with Tom Petty," an in-depth Q&A with writer Paul Zollo that started as a book about songwriting but expanded, Petty says, when both men realized that "we'd have to get biographical about it" to give some context to his songs' histories.

"I rarely, very rarely, listen to my own work," he adds, "so I had to sit and listen to it so I could talk intelligently about it. It really made me happy hearing all the stuff. I really felt like

we've done a pretty consistent job over the years."

Petty hopes that will continue with "Highway Companion," his new solo album. He's been working on it with Campbell and Lynne, and says that it's almost finished. He describes the songs as "pretty stripped down" and "not necessarily what people are going to expect" — which he thinks is a good thing.

"In the last few years I've gotten really into blues and a lot of the Chess label stuff — Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, Muddy [Waters]," Petty says. "There's a purity in that music that's really special, something so honest and true about it. I think that's what I want to achieve with the music I'm making now. I want it to get purer and purer, and have that timelessness that those records have."

If that puts him out of step with the Top 40, Petty adds, he can live with that now.

"I'm not as concerned with making a record that is going to be a huge hit," the singer/songwriter says. "I'd love to have a big hit, but it isn't what drives me now. I think I would look silly trying to do that. I'm just trying to make good quality music, because I do realize that this music is going to be around much longer than me."