

Journalism Milestones

—Arnold Cheyney

Daniel Louis Schorr

Daniel Schorr was born on August 31, 1916, to Tillie and Gedaliah Tchornemoretz. His parents immigrated from Russia to America in May 1914 before World War I began. When they arrived in America at Ellis Island (a reception center in New York harbor for newly arrived immigrants) an officer there gave Gedaliah the new surname Schorr. In later years, Daniel would comment how much in debt he was to the unknown immigration officer since Daniel did not have to sign off his broadcasts as "Daniel Tchornemoretz CBS News, Washington."

The first time Daniel received any pay as a journalist was when he, at twelve years old, reported a death in front of the family's apartment. A woman either fell or jumped from the roof of their apartment building and landed outside their ground floor window. Daniel called the police, interviewed them about the victim, and then telephoned the local newspaper, the *Bronx Home News*. The newspaper paid \$5 for news tips. Daniel also contributed the profits of his evening newspaper route to his family.

The Schorr family spoke Yiddish, but Daniel preferred they speak English or Hebrew. After his public school classes were over, he attended a Hebrew school five days a week where he also sang soprano in the synagogue choir. At his *bar mitzvah* he read from the Torah and made a speech.

While in high school, Daniel made the decision that he would be a journalist. He graduated in 1933 during the Great Depression. Because his high school grade average was high, the College of the City of New York (CCNY) admitted him as a tuition-free student. On his deathbed, his father asked Tillie to promise him that the boys would go to college. Daniel promised to go to college, but he took night classes, which made it longer, by two years, to graduate.

Daniel's journalistic career took him to many different countries and continents, besides working with a variety of news organizations. With his college education completed, he worked for the *New York Journal American*, then the Netherlands News Agency. He served in the United States Army in WWII as an intelligence sergeant at Army headquarters in San Antonio, Texas.

