

'Dad ... would have been speechless'

Rod Serling tribute deeply appreciated by family

By Anne Serling

In a final interview, a few months before he died, my father was quoted as saying he didn't believe his writing would stand the test of time.



**ANNE
SERLING**

Guest
Viewpoint

On Oct. 1-4, his hometown and the wonderful people who live there proved him wrong. The TZ @ 50 celebration in Binghamton was nothing short of extraordinary, with the help of Larry Kassan who performed sheer magic transporting his ideas to reality. I believe my dad, for the first time in his life, would have been speechless.

The events kicked off Thursday night at the Holiday Inn with Mary Martir of the United States Postal Service presenting the Golden Age of Television Stamp

to the family. Both The Honorable Matthew T. Ryan, mayor of Binghamton, and The Honorable Donna Lupardo, a member of the New York State Assembly, gave proclamations. Special Deputy Attorney General Carl J. Boykin recognized and presented individual awards to the superb teachers who developed "The Fifth Dimension" curriculum for the fifth graders in the Binghamton City School District.

Friday's "First Friday" celebration commenced with great food and a continual screening of the first "Twilight Zone," "Where is Everybody?" The turnout was incredible, despite the rain.

On Saturday, the bus wrapped in my father's image toured the Binghamton High School, the Walk of Fame, Recreation Park and the Forum. Displayed at the high school were letters written to my dad and also stunning artwork by the students of the Rod Serling School of the Arts. Four flat screen



Provided Photo

Binghamton's Rod Serling won six Emmy Awards. Here, he is shown with his fourth, won in 1960 for writing for "The Twilight Zone," the popular TV series that was the subject of a special celebration in Binghamton from Oct. 1-4.

televisions showing "Walking Distance" were set up at Recreation Park. To see the crowd of people

sitting on the carousel horses watching this episode was nothing short of amazing.

Thank you to the sponsors that helped make these events happen: The Binghamton School District, McDonald's, Time Warner Cable, WSKG, Oakdale Mall, BC Transit, the Convention and Visitors Bureau tourism director, director of city parks, parks supervisor, WBNG, White Knight Productions, the Forum, the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation, operation manager of Sam's Club, the dignitaries and all of the attendees who came to the Forum for the reading of my upcoming memoir and for the kind remembrances of my dad that they shared with me.

Thank you on behalf of myself, my family and my dad, who on those four magical days would have known that he'd truly made it home.

Anne Serling of Ithaca is the daughter of "Twilight Zone" creator and writer Rod Serling, who grew up in Binghamton.