

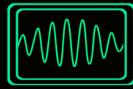
The Newsletter of the  
**PAVEK MUSEUM**

Vol. 28, No. 1

January - March 2017



*Inside:*  
**The Dawn of Radio**  
**The Mysterious Space Echo**



**On the cover: The de Forest Audion** was a vital building block of the electronic communications industry and “one of the most prolific sources of litigation in the history of invention.”<sup>1</sup>

Lee de Forest received the first patent for a triode vacuum tube, or Audion as he called it, on February 18, 1908 (the very day that Joe Pavek was born). Unfortunately, de Forest’s disregard for the patents of others, a penchant for exaggerating the performance of his products, and a weakness for shady business associates inevitably landed him in trouble. “In March 1912 Lee de Forest and other officers of the De Forest Radio Telephone Company were arrested and charged with using the United States mails in a scheme to defraud investors in radio stock.”<sup>2</sup>

“De Forest had no difficulty in securing release on bail, yet the shame and harmful publicity virtually destroyed the fortunes of his company. To be sure, he was out on bail, yet sooner or later he must face criminal prosecution in the courts of New York. Thus the unhappy inventor to whose genius the world stands indebted was, for the time being, under a heavy cloud of public disfavor — branded a swindler and a cheat.”<sup>3</sup>

On October 30, 1912, desperate for money, de Forest approached the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, hoping to sell or lease patent rights to his beleaguered Audion for \$500,000. In spite of being embroiled in a patent suit with Fleming and Marconi over *wireless* rights to the invention, de Forest reasoned that, since AT&T was interested primarily in long distance, *wired* telephony, his Audion was still free from litigation for this purpose. Signals traveling down long wires lost enough energy that they needed to be boosted every 30 or 40 miles. Electro-mechanical relays worked fine for repeating dots and dashes, but voices and music needed electronic amplification — something that only the Audion could do.

After a delay of nine months, in July 1913, AT&T purchased the exclusive rights to the Audion for “wire telephone and telegraphic purposes” for \$50,000, only 10 percent of de Forest’s original asking price.

On November 12, 1913, de Forest and officers of the De Forest Radio and Telegraph Company went on trial for mail fraud. The jury found two of the directors guilty, but acquitted de Forest and one of his associates of criminal intent. De Forest was released and reprimanded by the judge to “get a common, garden variety of job and stick to it!”<sup>4</sup>

Less than a year later, on August 7, 1914, AT&T paid de Forest \$90,000 for a nonexclusive license in the field of wireless telegraphy.

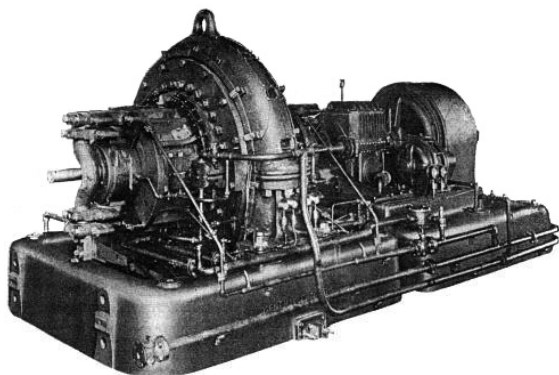
Two months later, on October 6, 1914, Edwin Armstrong was awarded a patent for his feedback circuit. De Forest immediately claimed priority, initiating a lawsuit that lasted the next 20 years.

On October 24, 1914, Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America, owners of the Fleming patent for the two-element “oscillation valve,” brought action in Federal Court to restrain de Forest from manufacturing and selling the Audion.

On September 20, 1916, the District Court of the United States concluded that de Forest’s invention had infringed upon Fleming’s, thus barring de Forest from manufacturing his Audion without the consent of the Marconi Company.

In 1917 a rumor spread that de Forest was about to sell his remaining patent rights to the Atlantic Communications Company. Concerned that they could lose their foothold in the rapidly developing field of radio, AT&T paid de Forest \$250,000 for “all of the still outstanding rights to his patents, including the pending [Armstrong] feedback or regenerative Audion patents.”<sup>5</sup>

At this time, the radio broadcasting industry did not exist. Wireless communication was primarily the domain of the maritime industry and hams. Most transmitters were of the spark-gap variety. De Forest's Audion held great promise for voice communication, but was still only capable of low-power output. It wasn't until the U.S. became involved in World War I that low-powered vacuum tube transmitters began to appear. High-power radio transmissions were accomplished with large mechanical alternators, the size of a house, spinning at high enough frequencies to carry audio over the airwaves. The British Marconi Company's 200-kilowatt transmitter at their station in New Brunswick, New Jersey, could reportedly be heard by battleships all over the world. <sup>6</sup>



**200 kW Alexanderson Alternator**

In March 1919 the British Marconi Company placed an initial order with General Electric for 24 Alexanderson Alternators at \$127,000 apiece with the condition that they would have exclusive rights to the device. At the urging of the U.S. Navy, General Electric canceled the sale and formed the Radio Corporation of America on October 17, 1919. This new company was created to prevent foreign interests, i.e., Marconi, from dominating wireless communications in America.

To facilitate this goal, a complex series of cross-licensing agreements was enacted between the four primary patent-holders in the field: General Electric, AT&T, United Fruit, and Westinghouse.

- G.E. owned the Alexanderson Alternator patents.
- AT&T owned valuable rights to de Forest and Lowenstein vacuum tube patents. They joined the Radio Group on July 1, 1920.

- United Fruit owned 22 wireless installations around the globe, mostly in the West Indies and Central America. They also owned one of America's largest radio manufacturers at the time, Wireless Specialty Apparatus Company, holder of the Crystal Detector patents. They joined the Radio Group in March 1921.

- Westinghouse owned the Fessenden Heterodyne as well as the Armstrong Regenerative and Superheterodyne patents. They owned and operated radio station KDKA and were already building and selling radio sets by the time they joined the Radio Group in June 1921.

The initial agreements between the Radio Corporation, G.E., and American Marconi granted the Radio Corporation the rights to operate and maintain communications systems, market radio products and services, and develop new radio technologies — but specifically excluded the Radio Corporation from manufacturing radio-related products.

Subsequent agreements with Westinghouse and United Fruit made the Radio Corporation the sole marketing organization for G.E. and Westinghouse radios, with a manufacturing ratio of 60 percent and 40 percent respectively. If either company could not meet its quota, Wireless Specialty would pick up the slack.

The arrangement with AT&T gave the Radio Corporation a virtual monopoly in the consumer vacuum tube business. The first vacuum tubes marketed by RCA were the UV200 detector and UV201 amplifier, developed by the Research Laboratory of General Electric.

The cross-licensing agreement between the five companies was the foundation of the broadcast industry in the United States. Now the race was on to establish their positions and get stations on the air. Westinghouse already had KDKA, but added WJZ and WBZ. RCA built WDY, General Electric founded WGY, and AT&T built WBAY and WEF; United Fruit was happily building banana republics and controlling communications in Central America. (Some say it was the foundation of the CIA, but that's another story.)

*continued on next page*



With thousands of miles of phone lines and de Forest's Audion patents, AT&T was uniquely qualified to create the first large-scale radio network. The Republican convention in Cleveland, June 10 through June 12, 1924, and the Democratic convention in New York's Madison Square Garden, June 24 through July 9, provided the opportunity for AT&T's Long Lines Division to prove themselves. For the Republican convention, AT&T connections were made to:

WEAF — New York, N.Y.	KDKA — Pittsburgh, Pa.
WCAP — Washington, D.C.	WJAX — Cleveland, Ohio
WNAC — Boston, Mass.	WTAM — Cleveland, Ohio
WJAR — Providence, R.I.	WLW — Cincinnati, Ohio
WJZ — New York, N.Y.	WGN — Chicago, Ill.
WGY — Schenectady, N.Y.	WLS — Chicago, Ill.
WRC — Washington, D.C.	KSD — St. Louis, Mo.
WGR — Buffalo, N.Y.	WDAF — Kansas City, Mo.

“For the Democratic convention the list was the same except for the omission of WJZ and WGY (which were served by Western Union Telegraph wires) and the addition of WDBH, Worcester, Mass.; WMAF, South Dartmouth, Mass.; WSB, Atlanta, Ga.; and WMAQ, Chicago, Ill.”<sup>7</sup>

WEAF's “Defense Test Day” program on September 12, 1924, qualifies as the country's first nationwide network broadcast, with 19,000 miles of wire reaching 18 cities “from Boston to San Francisco, and from Minneapolis to Atlanta and Dallas.”<sup>8</sup>

On election eve 1924, President-elect Coolidge's final campaign address was heard by 27 stations, with Denver, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco on the line.

“The Radio Corporation also operated a more limited network operation in 1923 from its station WJZ. The broadcasts were transmitted over Western Union telegraph lines, which proved inferior to AT&T's telephone network. (AT&T maintained exclusive right to network operations over telephone lines, and would not lease its lines for this purpose to any other entity.)

“In 1926 an agreement was reached between AT&T and RCA that resulted in AT&T's withdrawal from the broadcast business, and the sale of its stations and network operations to RCA.”<sup>9</sup>

## The Class of 1922

Meanwhile, we can confirm that 14 licenses were granted in Minnesota in 1922, only five of which still existed at the time of NBC's first coast-to-coast network broadcast on November 15, 1926.

- The University of Minnesota's **WLB** became **KUOM** in 1945 and is known today as **Radio K**.

- St. Olaf College's **WCAL** shared its 770 AM frequency with KUOM for many years. In 1967 WCAL put its FM signal on the air at 89.3 mHz. In 1991 WCAL gave up its AM frequency to focus entirely on 89.3. In November 2004 Minnesota Public Radio acquired the station in one of the most contentious and drawn-out controversies in the history of broadcasting in Minnesota and launched the new format on January 24, 2005, changing the call sign in the process to **KCMP** (89.3 **The Current**).

- William Hood Dunwoody's **WCAS** changed its call letters to **WHDI** in 1925. On November 11, 1928, as part of the FCC's General Order 40, WHDI was forced to share 1410 kHz with Dr. George Young's **WDGY**. On April 22, 1929, both WHDI and its “sharetime partner” WDGY switched to 1180 kHz. Dr. Young purchased WHDI from Dunwoody in 1931 for the express purpose of shutting it down. WHDI's last broadcast was heard September 4, 1931, as the station consolidated with WDGY.

- **WFAM** “The Voice of Granite City,” St. Cloud, Minnesota, was barely still in business by 1926, operating at ten watts or silent much of the time. Its license expired in 1928.

- Although **WLAG**'s original owners, Cutting and Washington, were in receivership and off the air by the end of August 1924, their facilities, equipment, and plant were purchased by the Washburn-Crosby Company. Call letters were changed from WLAG to **WCCO**, and the station returned to the air September 26, 1924, adopting the slogan “The Gold Medal Station.” Many of the original WLAG employees, including managing director Eleanor Poehler, stayed on with the new station. WCCO joined the National Broadcasting Companies' chain as a charter affiliate on November 15, 1926, just in time to be part of NBC's coast-to-coast inaugural broadcast.

## The Class of 1923

Not nearly as prolific as the class of '22, only six new Minnesota radio stations came on the air in 1923, one of which is still here today: **WDGY**.



**Dr. George Young**

Local optometrist Dr. George Young received call letters KFMT on December 23, 1923, for operation on 231 meters (equal to 1300 kilocycles) with five watts of power from his residence at 2219 Bryant Avenue North, Minneapolis. Young may have set a record for changing his call letters,

going from KFMT to WHAT to WGWY and finally, much to the consternation of the Radio Division, to WDGY on March 22, 1926, when he inaugurated his new studios in the West Hotel on Fifth and Hennepin in downtown Minneapolis. He also maintained studios at his building, 909 West Broadway. "The Jewelry and Optical Station" studios were eventually consolidated at 909 West Broadway.

In 1927 the transmitter was moved to the Silver Fox Farms on Wayzata Boulevard and Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park, with an operating power of 500 watts. By 1936 the station was operating with 5,000 watts daytime, and 1,000 watts at night.

In 1933 Dr. Young was granted Minnesota's first license for a mechanical television station, W9XAT.<sup>10</sup> The first telecast featured a handshake between WDGY station personality Clellan Card and Minneapolis mayor William Kunze.<sup>11</sup> Young's television license expired in 1938.

Also in 1938 the studios moved into WCCO Radio's old space in the Nicollet Hotel. By mid-1938 WDGY's slogan was "The Musical Station." On March 29, 1941, the North American Regional Broadcast Agreement (NARBA) moved WDGY from 1180 kHz to 1130.

WDGY's first affiliation with the Mutual Network came in 1937, but was lost to WLOL in 1940.

Dr. George W. Young died on April 27, 1945, at the age of 58. On April 10, 1946, the station was purchased from his widow, Mae C. Young, for \$301,000,<sup>12</sup> by the Stuart Investment Company

in Lincoln, Nebraska. By mid-1949 the station was operating with daytime power of 50,000 watts and night-time power of 25,000 watts from its new **nine-tower array** on 44 acres "just outside of town" at 10335 Fremont Avenue South, in Bloomington, Minnesota.<sup>13</sup>

In 1952 the station was sold to a local group headed by Clarence T. "Swanee" Hagman for \$425,000.<sup>14</sup> In 1954 the station joined the Mutual Network for the second time.<sup>15</sup>

On February 6, 1956, Mid-Continent Broadcasting Company, headed by Todd Storz, purchased the station for \$212,000, dropped their Mutual affiliation, and gave the **Twin Cities Top 40 Radio**, bringing people like Jack Thayer, Bill Armstrong, Herb Oscar Anderson, Bill Bennett, Jim Ramsburg, Stanley Mack, Johnny Canton, Rod Person, Dan Daniel, Tom Wynn, Marc Kalman, Donald K. Martin, Bill Diehl, and, on August 21, 1965, the Beatles, into our lives forever.

To hear clips from the Golden Age of WDGY, go to [Radiotapes.com/WDGY.html](http://Radiotapes.com/WDGY.html) and [Twincitiesradioairchecks.com/wdgy1130tapes.html](http://Twincitiesradioairchecks.com/wdgy1130tapes.html).

Today 1130 on the AM dial is occupied by conservative talk station KTLK, while the WDGY call letters belong to Borgen Broadcasting in Hudson, Wisconsin, playing "True Oldies" at 740AM, 103.7FM and 107.1 HD2.

Endnotes:

1. Gleason Archer, *History of Radio to 1926* (NY, American Historical Society, 1938) 114
2. Archer pg 104
3. ibid
4. Archer, pg 110
5. Archer pg 135
6. Archer pg 140
7. William Peck Banning, *The WEA Experiment* (Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1946) 240-241
8. Banning pg 250
9. John F. Schneider, *Voices Out of the Fog*, bayarearadio.org/schneider/nbc.shtml
10. Jerry Haynes, *The History of Radio Station WDGY*, (University of Minn. masters degree thesis, 1970) 43
11. [twincitiesradioairchecks.com/wdgy1130tapes.html](http://twincitiesradioairchecks.com/wdgy1130tapes.html)
12. Charles Ingersoll, *Minnesota Airwaves 1912 - 1939* (Cloquet, Minn., Northern Printery, 1985) WDGY
13. Mark Durenberger, [durenberger.com/documents/WDGYBROCH.pdf](http://durenberger.com/documents/WDGYBROCH.pdf)
14. Haynes, pg72
15. Ingersoll, WDGY

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Tom Frykman	Maynard & Deb Meyer	<i>Larry Wychor</i>
Tom Gavaras	<i>KLQP</i>	Charles Yancey



# The Mysterious Space Echo



**Roland RE-200 Space Echo**

The Roland RE-200 Space Echo holds a significant place in the history of electronic music. Perhaps the ultimate analog device for creating and controlling time delay, the Space Echo records incoming sound to an endless tape loop, then recreates the audio with a series of playback heads before it is erased and readied for a new signal. The RE-200 also features a built-in spring reverberation unit.

We acquired the device in 1990 as part of the Jack Mullin Collection. Lately it's been credited as having played a significant role in the musical development of an entire culture. Here's a condensed version of a story that appears at: [analogafrica.bandcamp.com/album/space-echo-the-mystery-behind-the-cosmic-sound-of-cabo-verde-finally-revealed](http://analogafrica.bandcamp.com/album/space-echo-the-mystery-behind-the-cosmic-sound-of-cabo-verde-finally-revealed)

"In the spring of 1968 a cargo ship was preparing to leave the port of Baltimore with an important shipment of musical instruments. Its final destination was Rio De Janeiro, where the EMSE Exhibition (Exposição Mundial Do Son Eletrônico) was going to be held.

"It was the first expo of its kind to take place in the Southern Hemisphere and many of the leading companies in the field of electronic music were involved. Rhodes, Moog, Farfisa, Hammond, and Korg, just to name a few, were all eager to present their newest synthesizers and other gadgets to a growing and promising South American market.

"The ship with the goods set sail on the 20th of March on a calm morning and mysteriously disappeared from the radar on the very same day.

"One can only imagine the surprise of the villagers of Cachaço, on the Sao Nicolau island of Cabo Verde, when they woke up and found a ship stranded in their fields, in the middle of nowhere, 8 kilometers from any coastline.

"Portuguese scientists and physicians were ordered to the scene and after weeks of thorough studies and research, it was concluded that the ship had fallen from the sky.

"Finally, a team of welders arrived to open the containers and the whole village waited impatiently. The atmosphere, which had been filled with joy and excitement, quickly gave way to astonishment. Hundreds of boxes were revealed, all containing keyboards and other instruments which they had never seen before – and all useless in an area devoid of electricity. Disappointment was palpable.

"It is said that charismatic leader Amílcar Cabral ordered that the instruments be distributed equally in places that had access to electricity, which placed them mainly in schools. It was soon observed that the children who came into contact with these instruments developed prodigious musical abilities. One of them was Paulino Vieira, who by the end of the seventies would become the country's most important music arranger.

"Eight of the 15 songs presented in this compilation were recorded with the backing of the band Voz de Cabo Verde, led by Paulino Vieira, the mastermind behind the creation and promulgation of what is known today as "The Cosmic Sound of Cabo Verde."



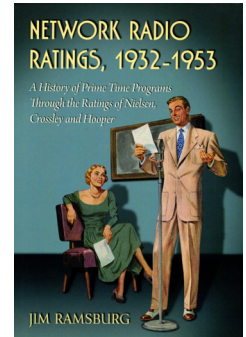


# Congratulations to Jim Ramsburg and Gold Time Radio



Jim Ramsburg

Broadcasting Hall of Famer **Jim Ramsburg**, author of *Network Radio Ratings*, has just celebrated five years of success with his **Gold Time Radio** website. It's grown to over 2,500 visitors and 7,200 page hits a month. If you're a fan of the Golden Age of Radio, give Jim's site a visit at [jimramsborg.com](http://jimramsborg.com) ... you'll love it!



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## Coming Events

**Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 pm:** The [Audio Society of Minnesota](#) presents “High Resolution Streaming.” In the past few years, all the stars have aligned to provide true HRA or High Resolution Audio streaming into your home, car, or pocket mobile device. This portable, better-than-CD quality used to be limited to writable discs or thumb drives, both with a fixed selection of songs. Now, millions of songs are at our Internet connected beck and call! So please join us at the Pavek Museum in St. Louis Park for an evening of high-resolution music streaming. Attendance is free for all, and light refreshments will be on hand. The presentation begins at 7:00 pm, and as always we encourage you to join us at 6:30 for more casual conversation.

**Saturday, March 25, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm:** The 35th annual **Midwinter Madness**, Hobby Electronics Show at the Buffalo Civic Center, in Buffalo, Minn. Admission is still only \$8 and children under 15 are free. Talk-in on the KØLTC Repeater 147.000 +600 – Call for KØLTC. Sponsored by Maple Grove Radio Club Website: [k0ltc.org/mwm.html](http://k0ltc.org/mwm.html).

**Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am:** **Vintage Radio Service, Spring 2017.** Sorry, this class is booked. Sign up now for the fall 2017 class starting Saturday, September 9. Still only \$150.00 for six or seven Saturday mornings of vacuum tube heaven. Sign up now.

**Saturday, April 8, 2:00 pm:** The **Minnesota DX Club** meets here the second Saturday of every month from January through June. Stop in and share your stories of long-distance reception and learn about the latest receiving equipment.

**Sunday, April 23, 4:00 pm:** The **Norwegian Explorers** present another **Sherlock Holmes** radio drama at the Museum. This year's drama, “**The Fingerprints That Couldn't Lie**,” first aired April 3, 1944.

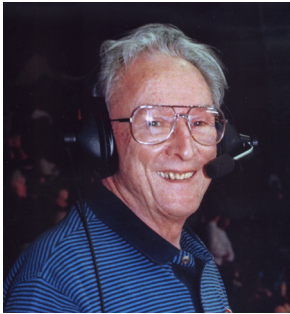
**Friday and Saturday, May 19 – 20:** **RADIO DAZE 2017**, sponsored by the **Northland Antique Radio Club**, starts right here with the **Pavek Museum Garage Sale on Friday, May 19, at 10:00 am.** **RADIO DAZE 2017** continues Friday evening at the **Comfort Inn Plymouth**, 3000 Harbor Lane, Plymouth, Minn., 763/559-1222. The hotel is giving Radio Daze attendees a special rate of only \$79, Thursday through Saturday night. Please reserve by May 6, 2017, to assure room availability. Go to [northlandantiqueradioclub.com](http://northlandantiqueradioclub.com) for more information.

**Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am:** **Vintage Radio and Vacuum Tube Audio Service** class, fall semester. Still only \$150.00 for six or seven Saturday mornings of vacuum tube heaven. Sign up now.

**Saturday, September 30, The Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame!**

# Obituaries

**John Hewett “Jack” Lemme** passed away on February 14, 2017, at the age of 91. Jack was the owner of KLTF Radio in Little Falls for more than 40 years and an active community leader. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jean, of 64 years; daughters Linda (Steve) Rucker, Kathy (Gordy) Peterson; sons Steve (Susanne) Lemme and Mark Lemme; grandchildren Ryan (Rachel), Erin, Keziah, Elliot, Chloe, Amber (Grant), Hanna and Chad; great-grandchild Norah.



**Ray Christensen**

**Ray Christensen**, the “Voice of the Minnesota Golden Gophers,” passed away Sunday, February 5, 2017, at the age of 92. A 2002 inductee into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame, Ray’s broadcast career began at University of Minnesota radio station KUOM, followed by a term as program director and sports director at WLOL. He joined WCCO in 1963, where his duties ranged from news and interviews to fine music, in addition to sportscasting. He retired from full-time broadcasting in 1993, but continued doing Gopher football and basketball play-by-play until 2001. Over the years he broadcast Minnesota Twins baseball, Minnesota Vikings football, Minneapolis Lakers basketball, as well as 510 Gopher football games in 50 years and 1,309 Gopher basketball games in 45

years. He remained active in the community, hosting tours abroad and recording *Talking Books For the Blind*. The University of Minnesota placed a banner honoring him in Williams Arena, and established an athletic scholarship in his name in 2001. Ray is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ramona; children Tom (Ann), Sue (Jim) Chambers, and Jim (Rose); grandchildren Emily, Mary, Jonathan, Christina, David, and Brian (Nicole).



**Herb Oscar Anderson**

**Herb Oscar Anderson**, WABC’s “Morning Mayor of New York City” passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2017, at the age of 88.

Herb was born on May 30, 1928, in South Beloit, Illinois. His mother, a maid who was born in Sweden, placed Herb and her four other children in the Odd Fellows orphanage in Lincoln, Illinois, after the deaths of two husbands left her too poor to raise them. He would later reunite with her.

His career began in Wisconsin, where he wrote for the *Janesville Daily Gazette*. After serving three years in the Air Force he started working as an on-air personality at WDBO in Orlando, Florida, then at a chain of stations in Iowa before going to KSTP (1954 – 56) and then WDGY (February 1956 to July 1957).

From Jim Ramsburg: “Herb was morning man at Storz WDGY when I came aboard in 1956. He was a nice guy, surprisingly nervous on the air, and begrudgingly played the Morning Mayor routine which we stole from Eddie Clarke at our sister station, WHB/Kansas City. It was at WDGY that Herb began to sing along with Lawrence Welk’s instrumental ‘Champagne Time’ and came up with his ‘Hello Again’ theme.

“CBS got him out of the Minneapolis market, and out of WCCO’s hair, when it hired him for WBBM/Chicago. But WDGY’s manager, Steve Labunski, was hired to run ABC Radio a bit later and he stole HOA away from WBBM for the network’s ‘Live & Lively’ format where he did a weekday hour following *The Breakfast Club*. When that noble experiment failed, Labunski moved on to WMCA/New York City and brought Herb with him as morning man. Then WABC went Top 40 and you know the rest.”

Herb Oscar Anderson is survived by his second wife, Terry Kirkoff, a film editor; sons Herb Oscar Anderson II and John James; daughter Carla Anderson; and four grandchildren.

# Obituaries

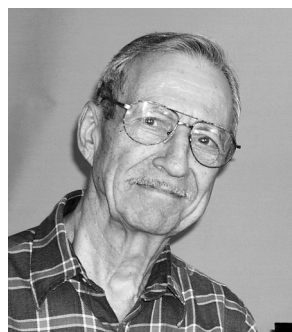


**Lou Buron**

**Lou Buron:** December 31, 1943 – January 23, 2017

A 2007 inductee into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame, Lou grew up in St. Paul and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1966. After serving in the Army National Guard, he earned another degree in mass communications at St. Cloud State, and joined the sales team at KDWB Radio in 1971. He moved up the ladder quickly, and by 1977 had become regional vice president of the station's parent company, Doubleday Broadcasting of New York, responsible for operations in Chicago, Detroit, Denver, and St. Louis, as well as the Twin Cities. In 1986 he moved to Parker Communications, with Cities 97 and other stations in Las Vegas, Honolulu, and California. He served two years as president of Parker Communications before forming his own company, Omni Broadcasting, in 1988. Starting with KBUN and KBHP in Bemidji, Omni was sixteen stations strong, serving Bemidji, Alexandria, Brainerd, and Staples/Wadena before being sold to Hubbard Broadcasting in 2015.

Lou is survived by his loving wife, Mary Campbell; son, Jeff (Sarah); and Mary's children, Heather (Wayne), and Christopher; cousin, Dorothy Mae DeTomaso.



**John Bravis**

**John Bravis WØEKS**, age 90, of Columbia Heights, Minn., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on January 2, 2017. Survived by wife of 63 years Jean; son Jon (Jack); daughters Becky, Bonnie & Julie; nephew Brian Krysinski; niece Tonya Krysinski. John was a South High grad in 1944, WWII Navy vet, longtime radio ham, Pavek Museum volunteer, Kiwanian, golfer, and musician. John joined Medtronic in 1952 during its humble beginnings in a garage in NE Mpls. At that time the company's personnel numbered four: Earl Bakken, Palmer Hermundslie, John Bravis, and an office secretary. One red-letter Earl gave John a sketch drawn on the back of a brown paper bag and asked him to build it. That creation became the prototype of the first battery-powered cardiac pacemaker. He remained with the company for 35 years, retiring in 1987.



**Johnny Canton**

**Johnny Canton**, longtime Twin Cities radio personality and 2006 inductee into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame, died on December 31, 2016, at the age of 75.

When Johnny Canton visited a Warrensburg, Missouri, radio station as a teenager, it inspired him to begin a broadcasting career that lasted nearly fifty years and made an indelible mark on Twin Cities radio and television.

He got his first on-air job at age 16 at KLEX AM in Lexington, Missouri, and for the next several years worked in radio at stations in Colorado, Kansas City, Pennsylvania, Rochester, and Cleveland. In 1966 he joined the staff of WDGY as music director and became a much-loved and widely popular rock 'n' roll disc jockey and concert emcee. After 11 years at WDGY he moved to WCCO FM (now WLTE 102.9 Lite FM), where he hosted a popular weekend show. The former host of *Bowling for Dollars* on KSTP TV and *Bowlerama!* on KMSP TV, he appeared in numerous national and regional television and radio commercials, as well as such films as *Airport* and *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*. He retired from the business in 2011. He is survived by his significant other, Janie Meyer, and two daughters, Jonna and Heather. Services will be held in June or July.



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