



Vermont Association of Broadcasters



50TH ANNIVERSARY

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~ Welcome ~  
VAB President, Dan Dubonnet

This year the Vermont Association of Broadcasters celebrates 50 years as an organization. Many of the reasons it was formed initially, still hold fast today.

The VAB was formed in 1954 “to promote cooperation and understanding among members and to foster, promote and develop the art of broadcasting. To encourage and promote practices which will be for the best interest of the public and broadcasting industry, and provide a regional contact with the NAB.” There were 14 members back in 1954 many of them family-owned radio and television stations. Today we have 81 members and another dozen or so associate members. There are fewer family owned operations, but there still exists a strong belief in the original core values of the VAB.

In 1990, the VAB hired its first paid Executive Director, Al Noyes, a former radio station owner and manager, to handle the growing issues of the industry and the NCSA program. The Executive Director and the VAB Board of Directors meet three to four times a year to discuss issues and plan for the annual convention.

In 2004, the VAB’s mission is to also serve as the states broadcaster’s educational and lobbying arm on state and national issues effecting our industry. The VAB also offers tower inspection programs, sales seminars, FCC mock inspection programs and an active voice for lobbying in Montpelier.

This year we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special commemorative magazine and compact disc. Special thanks goes out to Mary Collins for organizing the magazine and to its contributing writers, former radio people Warren Baker and MaryEllen O’Brien. Rod Hill was very instrumental in gathering the air checks and sound bites for the CD. We thank Steve Puffer for the idea to include the special radio and television guide that will be distributed at rest areas in Vermont, and thank you to the advertisers and members who supported the publication of this special commemorative magazine.

On behalf of the VAB board, I hope we have another 50 years of growth and memories!

VAB President  
Dan Dubonnet

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Mary L. Collins

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Mary L. Collins  
Editor



I blame kindergarten teacher Mary Bosworth for launching my career. In 1963, I was enrolled in her class at Adams Elementary School in Burlington. My first report card said, "Because of her reading ability, language skills, and especially her mature speaking voice, (I swear I'm not making this up), it would be easy for us to forget that Mary is only 4 years old." So much for playtime and taking naps! Mrs. Bosworth's observations came true for me in the form of broadcasting. Through it, I've had the good fortune to work with many talented people and have come to learn that broadcasting is more than just a job. For most of us, it's a passion.

Producing this keepsake for the VAB has been a particular honor. This memento of our collective history is one that I hope you enjoy reading as much as I enjoyed putting it together. Many thanks to Dan Dubonnet and the VAB for embracing the idea of creating this publication; to Rod Hill for taking on an ambitious CD project which showcases the talents of many of the broadcasters we know and love; and to everyone -- writers, advertisers, and contributors -- who helped in the making of this magazine and CD. Happy anniversary to all of my Vermont broadcast colleagues! It's a privilege to know you and especially to have worked with and learned from so many of you. Here's to our next 50 years...and to Mrs. Bosworth, wherever she might be!

*Mary L. Collins*

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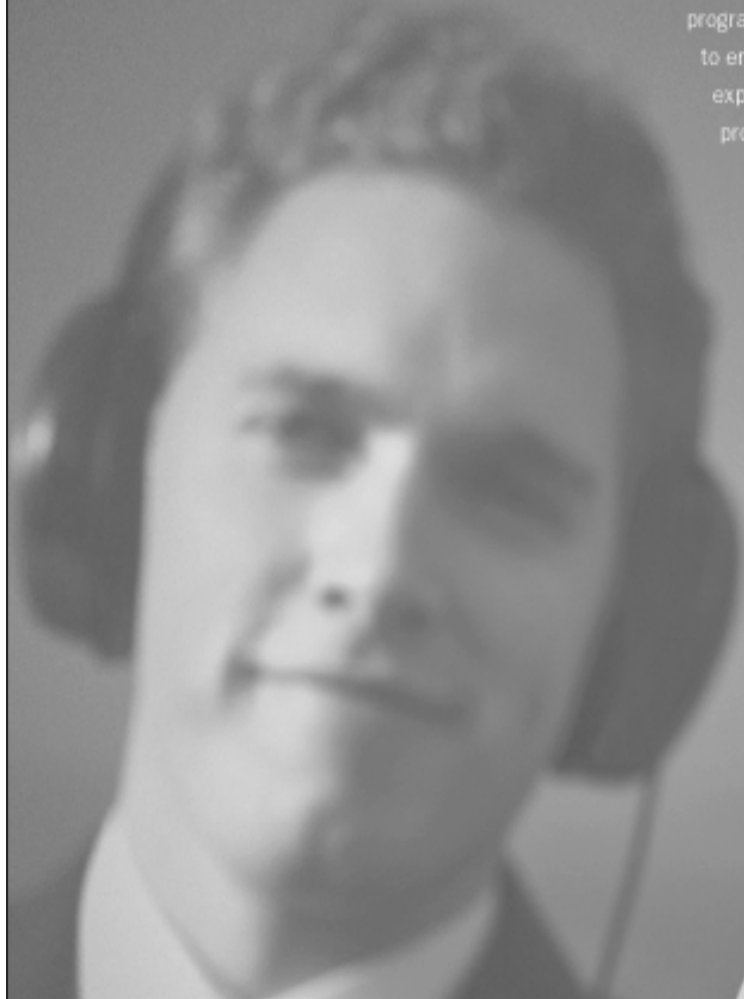
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The Champlain College bachelor's degree Broadcasting Program combines production, scriptwriting, ethics, history, theory, programming and management with a strong foundation in business to ensure that students acquire the skills, knowledge, confidence, experience, creativity and discipline necessary to begin professional careers either on the air or behind the scenes.



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# THANK YOU

*to all the great Vermont Broadcasters who have  
made the VAB a wonderful  
organization for 50 years!*

*We salute all our Hall of Famers,  
officers of the Association and  
all current and past station members,  
for a job well done.*



*Vermont Association of Broadcasters*

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Eric Storck

"Red" Martin

Peter Martin

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# Reeling In The Years

VERMONT'S TELEVISION HISTORY

By Warren Baker

In the beginning (prior to 1954), television programming that originated from the Green Mountain State didn't exist.

WCAX became the first station to earn that distinction when on September 26, 1954, the CBS affiliate began its first broadcast from a Barrett Street, South Burlington studio after airing its test pattern for 17 days. As the last of the 48 states to have its own television station, Vermont's coming-of-age rated a story on Edward R. Murrow's program, "See It Now."

**"At the time it seemed like going to the South Pole, but it really was like going to the end of a long, country road...a steep one."**

- "Red" Stuart Martin

The challenges, opportunities and changes encountered by each station that has gone on the air since then creates a framework for a brief history of the state's television broadcast industry. Chittenden County is home to four major commercial broadcast affiliates and one public television station. Eight broadcasters from these stations provided snapshots of Vermont's first 50-years in television.

## WCAX

Now celebrating its 51st year, WCAX remains the only television station in the Burlington-Plattsburgh ADI that is locally owned and operated by one family, the

Martins. Stuart "Red" Martin died Saturday, April 2, 2005 at his home in Jericho at the age of 91. In February, Red Martin recalled the challenges in getting the station on the air. "At the time it seemed like going to the south pole, but it really was like going to the end of a long, country road. A steep one," he said, laughing, referring to the Mt. Mansfield toll road. But the greatest challenge was the weather. "We had two hurricanes a week apart in 1954. They ruined the antenna, and we had to start over."

After the tower was in place, one principal problem beset the operation. CBS had given an affiliation also to Portland, Maine's WMTW, whose tower was atop Mt. Washington, "and they claimed to cover both Burlington and Portland," Red Martin remembered. "For five years it was a very strenuous period. We had been a CBS radio affiliate and thought we had uncontested access. It caused quite a bit of grief. We filled in with programs from ABC." That ended in 1959. "We had a knock-down drag out fight," he said, "and (WMTW) became an ABC affiliate."

WCAX "started as a radio station in 1927/28 as a student project," Red Martin said. His stepfather, C.P. Hasbrook, bought WCAX radio in 1938 when he purchased the afternoon Burlington Daily News. In looking for ways to stop "losing ground" in the market to the larger Burlington Free Press, he explored ways to expand WCAX radio and, in 1952, put up a TV station.

For Executive Vice President and General Manager Peter Martin WCAX news remains the most unique feature of the WCAX product. "We've done an hour of news at 6:00 since 1968, and that's continued...



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unusual," he said. "We have a fairly far-flung operation, with bureaus in Burlington, Plattsburgh, Montpelier and the Connecticut River Valley."

Peter Martin at first laughed at the thought of trying to compress 50 years of technological advances into a manageable answer. "We've gone from a time when there were two stations in this market to (the present) when 85 percent of the audience through cable or satellite has access to hundreds of channels. When we started," he continued, "the news was done in negative film and we reversed polarity in the system (to get the picture). We had big, cumbersome cameras, and everything had to be driven. In Rutland, for example, the news day ended at noon or 1 when you put the film on the bus" so it would arrive in Burlington in time for the nightly news.

"In the 70s we went to color, and in the mid-70s we inched into early video news cameras. Then we went to a microwave network to move things rapidly. Now we're moving away from tape, and soon everything will go straight to the server," Peter Martin said, remarking that "we go through these technological revolutions every five or six years.

"It's been quite a ride and how things have changed," he continued. "It's with more than a little pride that we've provided (a) level of continuity" in our broadcasting. "The function of this station has been the means by which the state talks to itself, politically and socially. Until Channel 3 went on the air, there was not a state-wide communication medium."

When asked for his greatest accomplishments as a broadcaster, Peter Martin replied, "Notwith-

standing all the changes, even the revolutions, we've gone through over 50 years, Channel 3 is still recognizably Channel 3. We're surviving, prospering, investing in the future and looking ahead."

### WPTZ

WPTZ also is celebrating its 51st year on the air. It signed on as NBC affiliate WIRI at the end of 1954. It was also a secondary ABC station. News ranks at the top of the list of WPTZ's most unique attributes, according to Stuart Ledbetter, Vermont bureau chief for the Plattsburgh-based broadcaster. Ledbetter has been in the news department at Channel 5 for 22 years, beginning in 1984, and in the business for 25 years.

WPTZ began a "market-inclusive approach" to its news broadcasts in 1980, beginning coverage of both New York and Vermont news, Ledbetter related. "It was quite controversial at the time because for the last century Vermont and New York were separate entities, socially and culturally. A number of our most loyal listeners asked for our motivation; why should we integrate? There is a great deal more economic and social integration now than 20 years ago, but in those early days we were called a lot of things. Before 1980 WPTZ covered entirely northern New York. Now we take a fully regional approach (after buying WNNE in 1991) with our news bureau in White River Junction."

Ledbetter also noted how dramatically technology has changed, and how that has improved the quality of coverage and made a news crew's life easier. "The refinement in news gathering equipment has revolutionized

TV in general and Vermont TV, as well," he said. "Videotape was revolutionary. We no longer had to conserve film, then go back to the studio and develop it. Video provided instant playback, and allowed news gathering to blossom. We now have a camera that weighs eight pounds. The advent of the mobile satellite truck and the smaller microwave truck, which permits easy, quick, remote live broadcasting around the market, eliminated physical boundaries to coverage. It helped to bind the market together. It allowed us to be far more nimble, which helps because we have far more deadlines," Ledbetter said. "Once we had two deadlines a day; now we have five. Live field transmission capability really helps with multiple deadlines because the distance between points A and B hasn't changed."

When asked to highlight his accomplishments as a broadcaster, Ledbetter said it was "tough to compress 25 years. To some degree (one accomplishment is) that I'm still here and still love what I do. I've seen so many people get jaded and lose interest. I still think that what I do every day matters in what we think about ourselves as a community and a state. Being able to be a broadcaster and pursue a career in my home state (he grew up in Manchester) is a pleasure. We'll be here in a super-competitive market forever," he said.

"I think that among broadcasters Vermont is fortunate to have so many who have Vermont at heart, broadcasters who are from here, live here and enjoy being here," Ledbetter continued. "Markets are replete with examples of formula-driven formats and people jumping from job to job. Vermont has many experienced

reporters who have stayed put. It's important that reporter know a lot about the community, its history, tradition and culture."

### **VERMONT PUBLIC TV**

The third Vermont television broadcaster was Vermont Public Television, whose Burlington channel, WETK, signed on the air October 16, 1967 as Vermont Educational Television, said VPT's Community Relations Director, Ann Curran.

Early in 1968, St. Johnsbury (WVTB), Rutland (WVER) and Windsor (WVTA) signed on. Since then, stations in Bennington and Manchester have joined VPT. Curran began her work at VPT as a volunteer on its first fundraising auction in 1975.

Initially VPT focused on instructional programs for classroom use during the day and instructional, cultural and public affairs programming for adults at night. At first the station was on the air about 13 hours a day, weekdays only, then became a 24-hour broadcaster in 1997. When PBS was created in 1969, VPT became a member station.

"The biggest challenge in getting on the air was funding," said Curran. "A group of people in Vermont was interested in getting public TV on the air, and needed someone to hold the license," a need ultimately filled by UVM. "There was some federal money for facilities, but the state needed to invest in an operating budget. A big challenge was to get the whole package together and present it to the state legislature as worthy of funding." VPT has weathered "various budget crises over the years," Curran said. "It hasn't always been easy. After 9/11 we, like every nonprofit, suffered because people

were not focusing on giving to organizations they had supported. We've been gradually climbing back out and getting more healthy."

Local productions are at the top of VPT's broadcast contributions.

"Local production has always been at the heart of VPT's mission," Curran explained. "They're a part of our programming ... to meet the needs of our Vermont community. We're always looking for ways to be active in the community and to find organizations to partner with to help meet community needs," she said. Despite the fragmentation in today's market, "one of the nicest things is when you can talk directly with a viewer."

### **WVNY**

In August of 1968 WVNY signed on the air, according to George Rousseau, who held several positions at the ABC affiliate, including production manager, station manager and director of broadcast operations from 1968 through 1984. Rousseau had been working in radio at WKNE in Keene, N.H.

"WVNY had a "normal start up," Rousseau recalled. "You get people, you hire a news department." The station was founded by Jack Siegal, a veteran broadcaster who died July 16, 2004 in Los Angeles. "There was a lot of excitement and anticipation bringing ABC into the marketplace," Rousseau remembered. "The biggest thing I can remember is Jack saying, 'We're gonna do something that'll really shake up the market,'" which happened when WVNY became "the first local TV station to offer live color."

Rousseau recalled. "Jack had hired four really good news people; Vic Maerki, a well-respected, tough, good

old-fashioned news guy who had been a long-time columnist with the Burlington Free Press, Brian Harwood, George Lambert and Bill Moran. "One of the first sports guys was Bob Lobel," Rousseau remembered, who has been with CBS4 News in Boston since 1979. (Siegal also brought 92.9 WEZF radio on the air, Rousseau said, and later sold both the TV and radio stations to Don Martin, who changed WVNY-TV to WEZF-TV for marketing consistency, and moved the TV operation to the former WCAX location in South Burlington. When Martin sold WEZF TV, the new owners changed the call letters back to WVNY.)

WVNY focused on producing "lots of local programming," Rousseau said. "We had two hours of live local talk shows in the morning with Jack Barry and Barbara Wick, and in the afternoon two hours of the live kid's show, "Trooper Yancy," then live news in the evening. "We also started doing sports remotes. We had a live, weekly show with UVM basketball coach Bob Clifford, and we did high school sports. We did snowmobile races at the Exposition. But we had lot of equipment problems. The toughest thing was that a lot of people didn't get UHF, which was a novelty back in '68-69. We even tried to sell UHF antennas.

"We were trying to establish ABC in the market," Rousseau continued, "but we were pre-empted every night. It was a double-edged sword because we had to show local programs to get people to watch. And we had long days. It was an 8-11:30 day. It was a struggle. And facing WCAX was a challenge," Rousseau recalled, "with its line-up of Mickey Gallagher (news), Stuart Hall (weather) and Tony Adams (sports)." continued...

"Within the first two years one of the biggest things to happen to ABC was Monday night football," Rousseau recalled. "It was unheard of. All football had been played on Sunday afternoon. It was very innovative sports programming."

Eric Storck has been at WVNY for eight years, first as general sales manager before becoming general manager in 2002. Storck has been in the business since 1983, and has worked six different television stations.

Storck noted that over the years WVNY has had "a few more challenges" than those faced by the affiliates of the other two major networks. "We were the last of the big three affiliates (to enter) the market," Storck said. "We have bleed-in from other regional ABC affiliates. Although we started later than the rest, we have established a presence in Vermont, helped by our niche programming and by such ABC programs as Monday Night Football."

For Storck, the biggest change in television "by far is the proliferation of cable channels. Our population hasn't grown exponentially, but the number of choices in TV viewing has exploded in the last 10 to 15 years. The pie stayed about the same, but the slices are getting smaller," he said. Reflecting on the transition, Storck said, "We're granted our license to serve the public good and deliver free TV. Cable helped people get better reception of local TV, but it took off on its own. People signed up for cable, but then the cable channels, using our signal that they got for free, turned around and started selling ads against us! Satellite brought an opportunity to broadcast TV stations ... because now

both providers, Dish Network and Direct TV, carry the local channels. The people who had turned from cable to satellite before they could receive the local channels are now receiving us, which has helped fill a void. So satellite has helped especially in this marketplace," Storck said, noting that "Vermont has the highest per capita penetration of satellite in the country."

Storck sees community commitment as among WVNY's most unique features, and it's the part of the business that he enjoys most. "When I sit down and talk to a group that has a message to get out, we can make a difference in that arena. A lot of us are looked on as a business, but we're a medium that provides great good. The community itself can play the greatest part of what a local TV station can mean to that community. The more feedback the public gives us, the more prepared we are to address the needs of the community."

#### **WFFF**

Fox 44 signed on the air in August of 1997 under an LMA with WPTZ. A year later, Smith Broadcasting took over the day-to-day operation, when Bill Sally, general manager, started working at the station.

"What separated FOX from the other three networks was the sports franchise," Sally said, "with football, baseball, then the NASCAR TV rights. That's how the network has emerged. We realized early on that we needed to take advantage of that difference, that edginess. We're responsible for local programming around FOX. We couldn't offer the same programming as the other three, which have long histories and tradi-

tions," Sally continued. "Fox pushed the edge in the one hour dramas, *Melrose Place*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *The XFiles*, *Ally McBeal*, and *Seinfeld*. We decided that our niche was to be an off-network sitcom alternative."

"In 1998, we were the first local affiliate in the continental U.S. to deliver a satellite signal to improve our signal distribution. It was huge for us." Sally considers it "one of the landmarks in Fox 44's evolution as a broadcast station." Another is picking up a secondary affiliation with the WB network.

A local news broadcast is in the offing, Sally said. "We're committed to offering local news. We have a 10:00 news in the works. In July 2000 we moved into our own broadcast facility on Watertown Hill in Colchester, and we are fully-equipped for a news operation and ready to go," Sally said. I think we've done a good job in our affiliation with community service organizations, and now we need to support those with news programming."

#### **INTO THE FUTURE**

Two interrelated items loom largest on Vermont television's agenda: the Mt. Mansfield co-location agreement and the leap into high definition digital television. The co-location agreement came first.

On August 28, 1978 the State of Vermont Environmental Board ruled in the case of Karlen Communications, Inc., that "any additional permits for development of communication facilities on the summit of Mt. Mansfield would be contingent upon the creation of a management plan for facilities' co-location on the mountain-top." That management plan, "The

Summit of Mount Mansfield: A Co-location and Communications-Management Plan," dated May 23, 1980, was adopted with exceptions by the Environmental Board. The plan, according to the Board's Declaratory Ruling #116, "established the underlying principles for the preservation and use of the Mt. Mansfield summit, defined a 28-acre "Co-location Area" on the mountaintop, outlined a program to facilitate the co-location of communication facilities and satisfy the Board's requirement for creation of a co-location plan as a condition of applications for future developments on the summit of Mt. Mansfield."

John King, president and CEO of Vermont Public Television, has been chair of the co-location association for the last seven years.

"All broadcasters are under a 1994 FCC mandate to convert to digital technology," King explained. In 1996 Mt. Mansfield television broadcasters began a multiyear process of implementing this mandate. "We realized that there were a lot of additions to be made and construction to be undertaken. The conversion to digital requires new antennas and transmitters. Additional television broadcasters, WPTZ Channel 5 and WFFF Fox 44, wanted to join the three TV broadcasters already on the mountain, WCAX, WETK and WVNY. This began an eight-year year trek to develop a master plan ... that would minimize the amount of environmental and visual impact.

"There appears to be light at the end of the tunnel now," King continued. "Over the years we've gone through an engineering study to accommodate the needs of broadcasters and meet needs of the state, and we've

dealt with all the business interests ... of natural competitors who are trying to find a way to work together on a mountaintop. There are so many moving parts that trying to work through each of the hurdles and reach an agreement with the Agency of Natural Resources and the state was a lengthy process."


King noted that the process reached a milestone when, on February 7, 2005, the co-location association filed an Act 250 master plan application. A preliminary hearing was held March 10, whose purpose, according to Ed Stanack, district coordinator for the District 5 Environmental Commission, was to get an overview of the project, to see if any persons requested party status, to flag any issues, and to talk about scheduling the evidentiary hearing. No persons requested party status, Stanack related. The evidentiary hearing was held Wednesday, March 30, 2005 (after this article went to press). Stanack said that the hearing would concentrate primarily on the Act 250 criteria that assess aesthetic impacts, natural areas, erosion and energy use.

"We'll go through the Act 250 process in hope of obtaining an Act 250 permit," King said. "If secured, we will begin construction this summer during the June to September construction season. The work will take two seasons. The hope is by the late summer-fall of 2006 the work will be completed and all television broadcasters will be operating in digital by then."

The FCC mandated digital conversion by May 2006, King said. During a transition period, stations would operate both technologies, allowing for consumers to make the

switch. "The thought was that by 2009 analog broadcasting would disappear," he said, and the federal government would then "sell off the analog spectrum to new users. (But) it didn't roll out nationally the way the FCC had hoped. Sixteen hundred broadcasters are affected. At this point the FCC is holding firm on the original deadline dates."

King noted, "two primary radio broadcasters are involved in the co-location agreement," Star 92.9 WEZF and WVPS (Vt. Public Radio). "They did not have to convert to digital, but because they're current residents of Mt. Mansfield they had to become part of the master plan." He also noted that two broadcasters already have made the switch to digital: VPT is broadcasting a digital signal from its facilities in Rutland and Windsor. WCAX is broadcasting HDTV on Adelpia cable." King noted that digital technology also allows for multiple channels, data casting and a number of other services available to broadcasters.

Under the current plan, the existing lattice-work analog transmission towers on Mt. Mansfield would co-exist with the new monopole digital transmission towers until 2009, when the former would be dismantled, removing the last physical evidence of the first 50 years of Vermont television broadcasting. 

*Warren Baker works in the Marketing Department at Champlain College in Burlington. He was Operations Manager, Production Director and Copywriter at WEZF and Editor of the Essex Reporter and the Colchester Sun.*



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# Getting Schooled In Broadcasting

By Warren Baker



**I**f one were to tell a recent graduate of a broadcasting school that audio tape once was edited using razor blades and splicing tape, he or she might exclaim, depending on their knowledge of the history of audio production, "Razor blades? Splicing tape? You gotta be kidding!" (Some of the even more sheltered might ask, "*Tape?*")

What is remarkable about this imaginary exchange is the short amount of time in which the transition has occurred between the technology of that era and the digital technology that now is the standard in the broadcast industry.

"We taught how to cue tapes, cue records, transfer audio to cart deck, and block splicing with a razor blade in class as recently as 1990," said Ben Haskell, dean of the New England School of Communications in Bangor, Maine. "But that's all gone now. Cart decks gone, reel-to-

reel gone, cassette decks gone. The digital revolution has changed the face of broadcasting. Nothing has effected our industry and the training for it like the computer. Now there's a computer or two in every studio," he continued. "Production goes from the mic to the hard drive, and software packages are the production workhorses for our students. They lay down their voice, music and sound effects, and edit right in the computer. There's no tape storage, and you can burn a spot to a CD or send it across the Internet as an MP3. Zip!"

Students studying radio and television broadcasting at two four-year programs in the Green Mountain State gain hand-on exposure to the latest technology and get instruction from professionals working in the field to prepare them for their own careers in broadcasting.

## Radio/TV

Nancy Kerr, Program Director of Media Communications at Champlain College, echoed Haskell's sentiments. "When I first started working in radio and teaching in 1982, we had reel-to-reel quarter-inch tape machines, vinyl LPs, and cart decks, which were the standard of the industry then. We'd use them to record and play back sound effects and news casts. Everything has changed, and now everything's digital."

Kerr spent 13 years as the division chair of Communication and the Arts at Dean College and seven years on the Communications department faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh. After seven years on-air and as a news director in radio, she worked at several local television stations, directing and producing shows for local and national release. Several of her documentaries have aired on PBS and cable. She worked in public relations for, among others, the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce and the *I Love New York* campaign.



Champlain's curriculum illustrates how far broadcasting instruction has advanced. Students "explore the countless ways people and organizations communicate with each other using words, images, music and design," according to the Web program page. While students "learn to analyze mass media with a critical eye, study the impact on society, explore related ethical and legal issues, and develop skills to express (their) own ideas clearly and forcefully," they gain experience in the field by completing 140-hour internships, which often translate into full and part-time employment in the field, Kerr said.

**"One aspect of work in radio that hasn't changed over the years is that they still have to be willing to move around and work god-awful hours."**

**-Nancy Kerr**

"A lot of our students in radio get jobs because they are able to work into part-time and then full-time openings, particularly at 99.9 the Buzz," Kerr related. "Job opportunities for radio grads are good. One aspect of work in radio that hasn't changed over the years is that they still have to be willing to move around and work god-awful hours." One Champlain graduate who now works full-time at the Buzz "got his start by volunteering to work the overnight shift, and worked his way in from there."

Radio and television broadcast students learn writing skills, and get "hands-on experience in digital editing suites, a television studio, video labs, computer labs and audio studios, and learn to script, direct, shoot and edit videos shot on location," Kerr said. Adjunct faculty who work in radio, television, public relations, journalism, advertising, publishing, theater and film insert a real-world dimension that provides Champlain students with a first-hand look at the possibilities and the career choices ahead of them.

To expand the experience of its broadcast majors, Champlain has established a Web-based radio station. "We stream our audio through the server," Kerr said. "All the music is pre-loaded on mini-disc or CD-ROM."

Kerr said that "no FCC requirements were attached either to setting up or broadcasting the Web station," noting that the FCC has "no jurisdiction over audio streaming on the Web because they'd be overwhelmed if they tried to track it." Web radio has generated controversy over payment of royalties to musicians, she said, although Champlain's station has joined the licensing agencies BMI,

continued p.22

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Looking ahead, "one of the big players will be satellite radio," Kerr said. "You pay a fee, which we're used to doing now with satellite TV. I think it will be so highly formatted, you'll be able to program the music you want coming to you. It won't hurt the smaller, local stations because of their established following. The bigger stations may lose some listeners." As for Web radio, "it won't revolutionize the world because you have to be at your computer or have the music downloadable in some way to listen to it." One of the reasons for pursuing it is "because licenses for FM and AM, even educational licenses, are

hard to come by because frequencies are no longer available," she said. An AM frequency was a possibility, but she chose the Web-based option due to its reach: Web radio is available worldwide by accessing the Champlain Web site at [www.champlain.edu](http://www.champlain.edu). The station is broadcasting 18 hours a day of block music programming, interspersed with features and news casts.

### TELEVISION

Tim Lewis has been assistant professor of Television Studies at Lyndon State College since the fall of 1999 when WCAX-TV gave him a "reverse sabbatical. Rather than taking a sabbatical to learn, I teach, and still report for WCAX two days a week," he explained. The program at Lyndon began with "some courses in AV materials, became the Communi-

cations Arts and Science major, and developed into video production and the Television Studies major."

Lewis has seen his share of changes in the broadcast industry. "I started at WIKE-AM in Newport in high school, using 1/4-inch tape, record albums and carts. At WDEV we had live musical groups in the studio on a program called "Vermont Live," and we had 78s. At UVM (from which he received a BA in Mass Communications), we had 1/4-inch tape, LPs and 45s. Now we've moved to digital on computers. Students these days don't need to know how to slip cue."

Lewis was the legislative reporter and news director at WDEV-AM, Waterbury from 1976-1980, and became WCAX-TV's statehouse correspondent in January 1981. He provided daily coverage during the terms of Governors Richard A. Snelling,

Madeleine M. Kunin and Howard Dean, and was producer of WCAX-TV's 14-month long, award-winning Vermont Bicentennial Project, *First Republic - 14<sup>th</sup> Star*.

Lewis is pleased with the broadcast opportunities for Lyndon graduates. "LSC-TV is an Outward Bound for TV journalists," he said wryly. "We've got a pretty good placement rate for grads. We have a number of production people

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at ESPN, as well as reporters and assistant producers of morning news casts both locally and nationwide.

"There will always be opportunities for folks in the business," Lewis said. "Will it ever again be the heyday of three networks when the local affiliates didn't have to fight with cable for the advertising pie? No. But I hope at some point people will figure out they can make money in local news. I've always worked for first generation broadcasters who understood that they had to make an investment in the local community in order to get local businesses to make an investment in them. Broadcasters gain influence by doing news. Local will be the future."

"One of the strengths of the Lyndon program is our local, live broadcasts. We report on the 14 towns that our local cable goes to. In the last two or three years, we've been streaming on the web so alumni and parents can watch student newscasts ([www.lyndonstate.edu/news7](http://www.lyndonstate.edu/news7))."

Lewis makes his newsroom instruction "as real as it gets by teaching tactics and techniques, then they do four-hour shifts in the newsroom, full days and weekend coverage. It's the educational model that we think works very well. Since they understand deadline pressures and can operate equipment, our grads seem to meet the needs of most of the news directors. Now video is digitized to a central server, students go to the desktop editing areas, cut stuff together, then it gets played out. No running down the hall with just-edited tapes to make it on the air within seconds of broadcast," he said. "We try to produce a team effort and exploit news technologies as best we can."

With measurable success. A LSC-TV story that aired January 28, the day after the NH primary, won an Emmy (1st Place in the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation College Awards competition in the category of Newscasts) for best student newscast in the nation. Producer Matt Henson '04 accepted the award March 13 in Los Angeles.

### IN THE TRENCHES

Steve Cormier, director of operations for Clear Channel Burlington, graduated from Lyndon State College with a degree in Communications Arts and Science. He worked for four years at the college radio station, and after graduation worked in Claremont, N.H. at M106 (now Q106), then in Hartford, Conn. for 2-1/2 years at WCCC, then to Vermont for 11 years at WIZN. He is now in his seventh year at WCPV Champ 101.3, where he co-hosts with Tom Brennan the "Corm and the Coach" morning show in addition to his ops duties.

Cormier explained how the requirements for on-air personnel have changed over the years. "It's not about being a good jock anymore. It's about how many different talents you can bring to the table. I want someone who can communicate and has the ability to relate information, who can have a one-on-one bond with the listener and understand how important it is to have a bond with the community we live in, but you also need people who are good on the street, who have good production skills. The more skills you can bring, the better chances you have of getting a job, especially in smaller markets like this one."

"It's a different world than it

was six years ago," Cormier said of audio production. "It's all about digital, everything's on hard drive. The biggest thing (that an applicant can have) is an internship. I can't tell you how many people I've hired in the last 18 years in this town who started out as an intern. Internships are invaluable," Cormier continued, "because they open your eyes to what's going on. There's not as many people in the buildings anymore, and that's everywhere, at every station."

Satellite radio "is going to be an interesting thing to watch. Years ago people said they wouldn't pay for cable TV," he remembered. "So 20 years down the line, who knows? Radio has to do everything in its power to make its product interesting and local to keep listeners. Local issues and local things will do well in the future. People want their school cancellations. Every year I get a budget, and all I'm told to do is to continue making good local radio and serve the community."



*Warren Baker works in the Marketing Department at Champlain College in Burlington. He was Operations Manager, Production Director and Copywriter at WEZF and Editor of the Essex Reporter and the Colchester Sun.*

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# Vermont Association of

## A

Tony Adams\* - WCAX-TV

## B

Frank Balch\* - WJOY (AM) WQCR (FM)  
Bob Bannon - WSKI (AM) 1995  
Jack Barry\* - VERMONT PUBLIC TELEVISION  
Bird Berdan - WPTZ - TV 2000

## C

George Cameron\* - WVMT(AM)  
Val Carter - WDOT(AM) 2000

## D

Vin D'Acuti - WJOY(AM) WQCR(FM) 1998  
Mike Donovan - WSNO(AM) WORK(FM) WWFY(FM) 2002

## E-F

Ernie Farrar - WVMT(AM) 1999  
E. Dean Finney\* - WTWN(AM)

## G

Mickey Gallagher\* - WCAX-TV  
Paul Goldman - WVMT(AM) WXXX(FM) 2003  
Bill Graham\* - WIKE(AM)  
Ken Greene\* - WCAX-TV

## H

Stuart Hall\* - WCAX-TV  
Jack Healey - WSYB(AM) 2004

## I-J

Ken Jarvis - WCAX-TV 2001

## K

David Kimel - WLFE(FM) WORK(FM) WSNO(AM) WWSR(AM) 1997  
John Kimel - WLFE(FM) WORK(FM) WSNO(AM) WWSR(AM) 1997  
Robert Kimel\* - WLFE(FM) WORK(FM) WSNO(AM) WWSR(AM)

# Broadcasters Hall of Fame

## L-M

Rex Marshall\* - WNHV(AM)  
Peter Martin - WCAX-TV 2003  
Stuart Martin\* - WCAX-TV  
Eric Michaels - WDEV (AM-FM) WCVT(FM) WKDR(AM) WLVB(FM) 2002  
Don Mullally - WSTJ(AM) 2001

## N

Joel Najman - WVAA(AM) 2004  
Al Noyes\* - WORK(FM) WSNO(AM)

## O-P

Craig Parker\* WDEV (AM)  
Tom Pierce\* - WEZF(FM)  
Gene Puffer - WYKR-AM/FM 1998

## Q-R

Dan Ruggles\* - WSKI(AM)

## S

Dennis Snyder - WJOY(AM) WKOL(FM) WOKO(FM) 1999  
Ken Squier\* - WDEV(AM)  
Lloyd Squier\* - WDEV(AM)

## T

Don Thurston\* - WTWN(AM) NAB

## U-V

Dave Underhill - WKVT-AM/FM 1996

## W-Z

Jean Walsh - WCAX-TV 1995

\* Original Hall of Fame Members

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## ~ 2005 INDUCTEES ~

Brooks Brown - WEQX -FM 2005  
Russ Kinsley - WCLX-FM 2005

# What Becomes A Legend Most...

baseball on NESN. David Parnigoni, after selling WKVT, became VP for the NAB. Frank Cesno, hosts news programs on CNN. He had been a radio announcer in Rutland. Tom Cheek, from WVMT, does play-by-play for Major League baseball's Toronto Blue Jays. Rex Marshall, a nationally recognized announcer, operated a White River Junction station where he did a local morning show from area restaurants

Other Vermont broadcasters, while not abandoning their Green Mountain roots, contribute on the national level: Ken Squier achieved national success with NASCAR, CBS and CNN. Red Martin, served several years as chairman of the CBS television affiliates board. Frank Balch was on the board of CBS radio, NAB and AP. Ted Teffner of WCAX and Dennis Snyder of WJOY, WOKO, WKOL served on the NAB Engineering Conference Team, Teffner as it's chairman. Snyder was an original member of the Digital Audio Broadcast Committee. And, I, along with Bob Kimel of WSNO, WORK, WWSR and WLFE served two terms on the CBS radio affiliates board and as Affiliates Board chairman of the CBS "RadioRadio" FM Network.

## **KEN SQUIER PRESIDENT & OWNER RADIO VERMONT GROUP WDEV, WCVT, WLVB, WKDR**

WDEV went on the air in 1931 in Waterbury, four years before Ken Squier was born.

"The radio station was my playground where my brothers and I grew up," Ken said, whose father, Lloyd, founded the station. His first job at the station was collecting stamps in WWII. Along with the metal, rubber, kitchen fat, newspaper and rag scrap drives, postage stamps were collected and used mucilage in making casts. "I was 9 or 10," Ken remembered. "We had barrels of stamps. It was what I did after school." When he was 11 or 12, Ken had his first on-air work, "doing announcements for a young man with celiac. There were no bananas, and it was thought that those with celiac needed bananas."

He hosted his first show at 12 or 13. They needed kids voices. There were

One cannot tell the story of Vermont broadcasting without telling the stories of the families and pioneers that brought those first radio and television stations on the air. It was hard work, fueled by the excitement of being among the first in what we now know is a long line of dedicated Vermont broadcasters.

These are several in a continuum of stories already written and recorded, including one related by the late Stuart "Red" Martin, who died Saturday, April 2, 2005 at his home in Jericho at the age of 91. A reporter for the New York Herald Tribune was in the area in the late summer/early fall of 1954 to write a feature story "on a guy who wanted to introduce Arctic Musk oxen in Richmond," Martin recalled. "The reporter asked, 'What else is going on?' and one day he showed up at the top of the mountain" where WCAX was erecting its transmission tower. Hmmm. Arctic Musk oxen *and* a television transmission tower. No doubt New York readers got a rather unique glimpse into two facets of life in their neighbor to the northeast. With a nod to the volumes it would take to relate all of Vermont's legacy broadcasters tales, a few are set down here.

## **AL NOYES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VAB, FORMER STATION OWNER**

Over the years several local broadcasters put their Vermont experience to good use by advancing their careers to prestigious posts on the national level: John Reid, who started as a weekend DJ on WSNO, went on to become Senior VP for Broadcast at Associated Press. Bob Lobel, former WJOY sportscaster now works at WBZ-Boston and hosts pre-game interviews for Red Sox

Vermont Broadcast Legends Val Carter & Goody Goodrow



Joel Najman, VAB Hall of Famer & Host of "My Place" On VPR

Jack Barry - Host of the VPT Auction And Vermont Radio Legend



Chip Hobart with Joan Baez at WEZF. Chip is the son of another Vermont veteran broadcaster, Bill Hobart

weekly half-hour dramas, radio theatre. There was always things to do because all the studios were in use. Emptying wastebaskets," that kind of thing, Squier said. "There was no tape. We had 16 inch transcriptions and a cutter bar, with George Aiken's and Warren Austin's speeches, all cut on transcriptions, it was a large disc. I couldn't touch those! We had music groups that were there live. The building was sort of an entertainment place.

The building (WDEV is still in it) was the media center. In the front of the building on the second floor was the telephone company, down the stairs was the Waterbury Record my father had started in the teens, and the radio station was in the back. Western Union telegraph was there. The Stowe Reporter (or News) was there. The antenna was a copper wire that stretched down to the funeral parlor from the back of the building. It grew and they built the first tower, a wooden tower 95 feet, and moved in '34 to Blush Hill."

"The big challenge was in '38 putting up the four-legger, 432 feet tall," Squier said. "It was the highest antenna east of Mississippi, but it blew down in the hurricane of '38 two months later. We finished it in September and it blew down in late fall. The storm came up wrote it. It was the '30s, Orson Welles, "War of the Worlds." It was the time of serials. "Superman," "Jack Armstrong," they followed the soap operas. A whole literature was created," Squier said. "Comedies Sunday night with Jack Benny, Alice Gray, Charlie McCarthy, Bill Harrison, Fred Allen ("Treadmill to Oblivion"). They were real series. There were real writers for radio. It created a theater of the mind. and it continued through the '50s. Radio theater was killed by TV."

"I don't know what it's going to be tomorrow," Squier said. "We're not doing much different than we were in the '30s. The sense of need and necessity is what it was built on and what it was successful on. That is the future, the business of being relevant and providing information to the community. That's what will save radio. There's better ways to get music today. The iPod is the latest. The one thing that doesn't change is the need for the electronic neighborhood. We've

lost the dooryard call, but radio can still fulfill that. "Vermont's a small community, and we're all curious about what we're doing. We're fascinated with what our neighbors are up to."

"Being a family broadcaster is more about being really a community station and trying to be relevant," Squier said.

"What the future holds? That's always the question, that's the challenge and the fun of it because you don't know. The fun is to try to continue to create something that's imaginative and relevant. I don't mean to sound bigger than we are but my sense is that if there's a future in radio what we've found is closer to what will make radio succeed. That goes for the big stations, too. Salvation will come in a form that is more labor intensive and serves its community. Whether that'll stand up, I don't know. It about trying to discern what the community is about and trying to serve that need."

**DAN DUBONNET  
VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MNGR  
WOKO, WJOY, WKOL  
HALL COMMUNICATIONS**

Dan Dubonnet, VP and GM, had an early introduction both to radio and to Hall Communications: his father was chief engineer for a Hall radio station in Connecticut. Dan didn't immediately follow in his father's footsteps. He first worked for a competing station in Connecticut, and then worked in Maine and Virginia. His father's boss "tried to get him to come home to the family," which he did in 1985 as PD of then WQCR, Q-99, two years after Hall Communications bought the property.

WJOY-AM went on the air September 14, 1946; in 1962, WJOY-FM went on the air, playing beautiful music, then became WQCR in the late 70s. Hall made the switch from rock to country in 1990. We were struggling as QCR," Dubonnet recalled. "Mr. Hall had been approached numerous times to sell the property, but he didn't like to lose." At a staff meeting announcing the change in format and call letters, Dubonnet remembered that "Mr. Hall pounded his fist on the table and said, 'God damn it! We're going to win here

and play country music!' The next morning Rod Hill came in wearing a cowboy hat and boots. He went from rock head to cowboy!"

**PAUL GOLDMAN  
PRESIDENT & OWNER  
WVMT/WXXX  
SISON BROADCASTING CORP.**

Paul Goldman has been in the radio business for 30 years. "It's the only job that pays you to see your friends," he says of the account list he still maintains. "The reality is that with a company this size, it makes economic sense."

He's learned his lessons well, and remembers his teachers. His father, Simon, bought WVMT in 1962, and George Cameron "early on became an equity partner. George Cameron really built the radio stations (including WSYB in Rutland, also in the group at the time). As a second generation owner, Goldman said he "feels an obligation to try to continue what my father and George did that inspired me so much. What they accomplished will never happen again, but you can still make a difference and make a living. It's a thrill. I had the greatest role models in radio, and it can't get any better than that," he said. "Not a day goes by that those two men's influence is not in my day. It's a joy to be able to carry on the family name in the family business."

Goldman recognized the influence of Cameron, whom he called "the patriarch of Vermont radio broadcasting. My guess is that 50 percent of the radio broadcasters working today in Vermont who are over the age of 40 worked for him at some time. His influence and significance is noted. You can't do Vermont radio justice without acknowledging George Cameron."

Goldman said that, "Radio will always be strong. There will always be a need for people to have some sense of what's going on in their towns. The thing I worry about most is the entrepreneurial spirit that starts any business has been turned off. My dad had nothing, literally, when he started."



# This One's For The Girls

By MaryEllen O'Brien

"I'll never forget my interview with a candidate for the Burlington Board of Aldermen. It took him about 45 minutes to answer a question without stumbling over his words. When we were finished, I remember walking away and telling my photographer, 'that guy should NOT quit his day job.' Well, fortunately for him, Howard Dean did not take my advice." Despite dubious prognostication skills, Kasey Kaufman's early work as a TV reporter for Vermont's WEZF TV (later morphing into WVNY) launched her career and sent her to the majors. Kaufman is now at the CBS affiliate in Boston, and from there she reminisced about the unique character of Vermont broadcasting: "Where else but Vermont could you call 4-1-1 and get a Governor's home phone number?" Indeed. This and other Bob Newhart moments were plentiful as I set about asking numerous women with past or present ties to Vermont broadcasting what was so special about working in the Green Mountain State.





Access to politicians is just one of the many perks the women hailed. Longtime Vermont radio personality and award winning program director Jody Petersen remembers mostly that doors just kept on opening for her as she came into the business. There were none of the roadblocks and pigeon-holing roles that often occurred in much larger markets. While Jody now has her own voice production company, she spent two decades on-the-air at Triple A WNCS and easily moved into both the music director and program director chairs along the way. The possibility of working in radio all began for Jody with a project for Goddard College's experimental program in further education — she chose radio as her subject, worked with WRUV, and thus the love affair began. She had been listening to WNEW in New York and what later became CHOM in Canada and was convinced that she could be as good or better than early female DJ's like Alison Steele. She completed her Goddard project and took off to travel Europe for a while, and when she came back, the first of those doors opened for her when Steve Zind hired her at the fledgling WNCS. She never looked beyond the borders of Vermont either, though she had opportunities to move up the radio market dial. "I loved 'NCS, and I loved the quality of life in Vermont," she told me. That quality of life was worth more than a larger paycheck, and she didn't need to leave Vermont to be part of the music and record communities. She supplemented the typical modest DJ salary by doing voice work, and some of those early clients are still with her today in her new business.

Petersen gave kudos to Candis Leopold, another Vermont female pioneer in broadcasting, for supporting the on-air staff with "great energy" as a General Manager at WNCS. Leopold herself feels very lucky to have "fallen into this profession," as she put it, and equally fortunate to have made such long-term friendships with colleagues like Petersen, who is godmother to one of her children. Leopold remembers when Madeleine Kunin held her first press conference as Governor — almost the entire press corps on hand that day was female — critical mass, for at least one day! It seems assignment editors thought sending the woman on the staff to cover Vermont's first female governor was a good idea, and many other women requested the assignment. She recalls a memorable photo showing "women, women, women in the Governor's ceremonial office at the big conference table."

continued...

## The Collins Communications Group

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*- Paul & Gayle Brown  
Cold Hollow Cider Mill*

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There was one day early in her career where Leopold remembers being pulled off the air when she was hosting a “Music of Europe” show on Sunday mornings, because the producer in Canada heard her and didn’t want a woman hosting his show. Misogynist polka producers aside, Leopold, who holds a masters degree in communications from UVM, has no complaints. Her career has included covering the State House, anchoring news and hosting a cable talk show.



**“I went from being an avid listener, to having an insatiable appetite for learning all I could about radio.”**

**- Kelley Kowalski**

Most recently with the Onion River Arts Council, Leopold is now completely out of broadcasting for the first time in decades, a situation she hopes will change soon. She says that broadcasting was her life, and her support, in the years she was a single mom. Good money in sales and the deep bonds with fellow broadcasters made it a joy to go to work. And all this came about when she came back from skiing one day, hunkered down at the Snowfire Garage where her first husband worked, and heard an ad on the radio recruiting people for radio sales.

Her husband and a buddy tinkering in the garage heard the ad and told Candis she should go for it — “you’re a natural!” It was fate. Now every time she crosses the state line

coming back into Vermont from a trip away, she knows there’s nowhere else she wants to be. In fact, she is president-elect of the VAB for 2005.

CeCe Wick remembers the early ‘80s, when she was one of the very few women in broadcast management, as an exciting time at WPTZ TV, a station that then still had the challenge of being the “out of town team” from across the pond. When she was first hired she was a newly divorced single parent with three chil-

dren. Her boss sympathetically told her he “never wanted to know (I) had children!” Wick “relished the challenge,” though, and went on to become New England Regional Manager, a position she held for 13 years before moving out of broadcasting and into PR and marketing fulltime.

Despite very occasional put-downs as women, overwhelmingly the women I spoke with said that broadcasting in Vermont was a great place for working moms and wouldn’t trade it for any big market, even when those jobs were offered. This appreciation for Vermont is no doubt behind the fact that so many women have spent 2-3 decades at the same station, or have made only one or two moves but stayed in the same market — a rare situation in broadcasting anywhere.

Nancy MacDowell celebrates 29 years in March since her first broadcast job came along serendipitously. That was at WRFB-FM in Stowe. She shares with others another frequently mentioned link in the story

— an introduction to radio made while a student at Johnson State. She’s been doing country radio at WLVB for eleven years now and is grateful for a charmed livelihood on the air.

Vermont Public Radio has strong representation with female broadcasters and Betty Smith is something of a legend in the public radio genre. In fact, she was there from the birth of VPR, was its first full time employee and she’s still there. Currently she produces the commentary

series on VPR and works with over fifty writers. “I consider producing for VPR to be a privilege. Vermont has an intact

culture, with in-depth history and a sense of community.” Smith pointed out that VPR has always recruited women for both on-air and management positions.

Catherine Hughes is another broadcaster who chose to stay in small market TV news after her first hire at WCAX in 1979, saying simply that she loves Vermont, and “on the occasions I interacted with network types in the area to cover a national story, I didn’t see anything I was missing, except for maybe the pay.” She feels the independent nature of Vermonters is responsible for what appears to be the progressive nature of broadcasting in the state, more so than any political statement. Though one could argue that this independence IS a political statement. Today she is an independent film producer (no surprise!) working on videos, documentaries and television programs.

Mary Collins is another independent producer who formerly was

continued...

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on-air at WIZN and WEZF. She also did stints on air, in sales, or management at WDOT, WVNY, WOKO, WKOL, WJOY and WKLZ and taught media writing for Champlain College. She currently, works part-time on air at WLVB “for the fun of it” and is the voice for Vermont Public Television. Mary owns The Collins Communications Group where she now writes, produces, and manages advertising for clients all over the globe.

The pattern of independence is strong throughout these stories. Collins reflects that she has had the good fortune to hone many different skills in broadcasting and related ventures. It is true that in small markets many end up wearing many hats, but Collins has traversed between on-air and sales management, creative services and promotions, areas that don’t usually see much cross-traffic. “I utilize all those skills in my agency,” she said. She feels her broadcasting background gives her an edge in understanding what the various people involved making an advertising campaign work need for their part on the air or behind the scenes. And staying in Vermont has been a big plus for her career: “I’m a Burlington native and 6<sup>th</sup> generation Vermonter, so being able to grow a career that I love and stay in a place I love has been a great gift.” Large markets held little appeal to Collins who finds that “Vermonters keep things real.” Today she is able to work with clients in any location around the globe — all from her office and studios here in Vermont.

Over at WJOY Ginny McGehee notes that 2005 marks 25 years for her in Vermont radio, 22 of those in one place where she has worked every

shift, covered news and dealt with many formats. “This market has grown immensely since I started,” she notes, and “Vermont is packed with talented air personalities.” While McGehee says she doesn’t think of herself as a female broadcaster, but simply as a broadcaster, she was certainly a trailblazer for the women who’ve come years later to Vermont broadcasting. From the sales side of the equation, Gena Gaughan-Boyden, now General Sales Manager at Fox 44, has worked radio and TV sales, from WPTZ TV to WEZF-FM, and has built a happy career over 20 years while staying in the same market. She faced the work/motherhood strains herself and feels fortunate to now be in a position to help pave the way toward making things easier for working mothers who are following her generation into the work place. That empathy comes from experience: she faced having only a 2 week full-time maternity leave followed by 4 weeks of part-time leave because the station had not yet produced a viable maternity leave policy for account executives. Gaughan-Boyden will leave a legacy of positive changes for women in this way.

McGehee may not think much about the gender equation, but the fact is that as we celebrate 50 years of broadcasting in Vermont, literally only half of that period includes women. So this occasion is one that sharply contrasts “then and now,” and reminds us that for a long time half the population was voiceless in this profession.

The women mentioned thus far are generally speaking the first generation of female broadcasters in the state — but there are new voices

and faces who are present in Vermont now, and who benefit from the pioneering work of those who went before them. Kelly Kowalski, aka Kelly “Hughes” on-air, is one of these newcomers. Kowalski is both Program Director and midday personality at WEXP/WVAY, “Classic Rock 101 The Fox” out of Rutland and Wilmington. The station is now owned by Nassau Broadcasting, but was previously owned by VOX. Kowalski migrated to Vermont from the VOX station in Glen Falls, NY in January of 2004 making her a newcomer to the state and an enthusiastic convert to life in Vermont. Just 29 years old, she finds herself like a number of those before her in the position of being a single parent and finding radio offers her a career that can be managed well with that. She’s a native of central New York and caught the radio bug but good when in Junior High School she did a career project on radio broadcasting. She focused on Linda Rae, a well known air personality in Utica, and shadowed Linda through her on-air and production duties. “At that moment,” she recalls, “I went from being an avid listener, to having an insatiable appetite for learning all I could about radio.” From then on she bicycled to the station once a week, and later befriended DJ’s at WOUR, the local classic rock station. But it wasn’t until she did her first actual airshift at the Herkimer County Community College that she knew for sure that she was destined for radio. She majored in Radio/TV and quickly found an internship at a local Hot AC station. Other opportunities followed and she did overnights and an evening love song show before being initiated into the “you’re being replaced by sat-

elite” club. A day later she had a new job with a cross-town classic rocker. Fortune was smiling on Kelly. Before you know it she was an APD, working out of her company’s corporate headquarters in Syracuse and on her way to the majors, or so she thought. It was then that she got her first dose of corporate politicking complete with shameless power plays, backstabbing and intense pressure over ratings. There for 3 years, she was “laid off” shortly after 9/11 and found herself disillusioned and questioning even working in radio at all.

She took a job at a non-profit, but missed radio too much to leave it behind. Luck smiled again and she met Ken Barlow and the VOX Radio group in Glens Falls, NY. She jumped at the chance because Glen Falls was non-rated and saw some real advantages in that. She became PD for a cluster of 4 stations. Then came an opening at sister station WEXP/WWAY in Rutland and she packed her bags for Vermont and feels she has found her place. “As far as environment goes, nothing compares to small market radio,” Kowalski says. She enjoys the close-knit camaraderie of the staff — something unheard of in Syracuse. And air staff and sales did not mingle. In Rutland they work and play together and serve the community. New owners Nassau Broadcasting have the thumbs up too, as a company that “gets it” and has preserved these qualities. Will she ever look toward a large market again? Not a chance. She says: “You can have the large market and all the stress, backbiting and negativity. I’ll stay in Vermont where it’s a great quality of life, all about teamwork, beautiful, and full of pride in every community.”

Over in non-rated Poultney there is also a sense of having found one’s bliss working in radio in Vermont. Judy Leech is General Manager of an AM/FM combo, a job she never expected to find herself in. She went to WVNR AM/WNYV FM in 1986 — as a temporary situation when her brother, Michael J. Leech, an attorney in Chicago, bought the radio station.

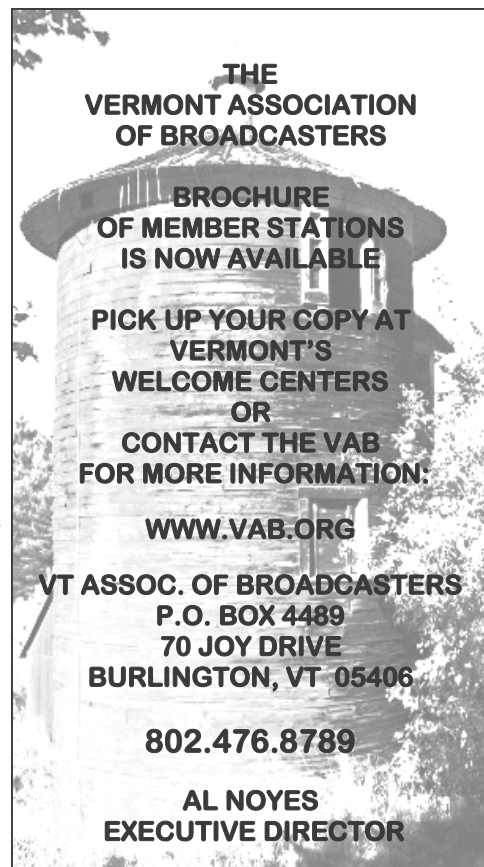
The staff is easily 50/50 female to male most of the time, and like most small markets, even the G.M. wears many hats. Leech does morning news to help out the morning host. Echoing the refrain heard over and over in these interviews, she says the station staff are a close community and everyone within their listening range is community too. They even have an “on the road” report every Wednesday from the surrounding communities. The FM signal covers Addison, Bennington, and Rutland counties. Being near the NY border, the AM covers Warren, Washington and Saratoga, NY.

While she never thought she’d be living in Vermont let alone managing a couple of radio stations, Leech says she’s glad she came and stayed — and says she’s not going anywhere: “Vermont is pretty unique. Everyone is a person first; what you have and what you own are second.”

The Poultney station has a daily slice of talk called “Coffee Break”. Host Ann Rich Duncan (known as Annaleigh on the air) interviews a wide variety of guests for the show from the governor to authors, artists to social workers.

Duncan is another broadcaster who “fell into” the profession. She

continued...



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grew up in NY state, in the Adirondacks and lived for many years in Massachusetts after her marriage where she and her former husband ran a weekly newspaper for 20 years. After selling the newspaper she moved into PR work for a local hospital in the Berkshires. Duncan's elderly parents lived in Vermont and the time came when she wanted to move her to be close to them in their remaining years. Radio was the last thing on her mind. That was six years ago. Her background in news publishing and PR made a perfect foundation for a talk show, and so for the last 6 years she's been taking a Coffee Break with listeners on a daily basis.

"I love this!" she exclaims, adding that her previous work gave her the confidence to do this. She also fills in for the morning host when needed, and says she as though this is where she should be. That sense of all being right in one's life is a precious gift that seems to abound in these Vermont stories.

Judy Anderson is a lifelong Vermonter who was working at WNYV when Judy Leech came on board. Now she's over at WZRT FM in Rutland, where she does mornings with a co-host, and she's also Program Director of two AM's. She's another early starter who began hanging around radio while in high school — at WVNR in Poultney as a matter of fact. She went right from high school into radio full time in 1982 and hasn't looked back since. She, too, does a little bit of everything, even traffic, as happens in small market radio, and she feels radio in Vermont was a wonderful career for raising children. Her three boys used to come by the studios and hang out until mom was done

with her afternoon air shift. She even had them join in occasionally as co-hosts, reading the weather for example. People really liked it! I can identify with this myself, as my son also came to my station, WEZF, after school and waited for his mom to finish her afternoon shift. Could that be done in a large market? Probably not. Unsurprisingly, Leech speaks of being very close to her coworkers who are more like family than co-workers. When asked if she's ever been tempted to leave Vermont and venture into a large market the reply is quick: "Nope. My family is all here, I love living in Vermont, I love going to work every day — and no amount of money can buy that."

When asked about mentors or influences most of those interviewed mentioned the person who was the first to hire them. Stories of gratitude toward people like Ed Flanagan (Candis Leopold), Brian Harwood (Nancy MacDowell), John Nichols (Dena Yasner), and Mickey Gallagher (Catherine Hughes). Gallagher was "an old newspaper man by trade" from whom Hughes learned to see the big picture. Former TV news anchor and current CBS producer Bill Felling taught Hughes to understand that "one needs to write to the pictures one has — very important lesson for us television folks."

Ken Squier's name comes up in various and sundry places as having been a great supporter. Lana Wilder says her first PD at Triple X, Walt Speck, was a "huge influence." Mary Collins is grateful to Roger Albright of WEZF who taught her "how to use my voice like a musical instrument, to hear it that way. He also taught me how to write for the ear which many

people just don't do." Ginny McGehee thanks her parents for teaching her to be open-minded and exposing her to Big Band music. Her first radio influence had to be WFIL in Philadelphia where she grew up, and remembers "boss jocks," but no female DJ's.

McGehee is not alone in the out of state origins and influences: Dena Yasner grew up in New Jersey, listening to New York City radio stations with legendary jocks like Harry Harrison, Cousin Brucie and Ron Lundy. No women on the air then, she notes.

I myself grew up listening avidly to Boston radio and the likes of boss jock JJ Jeffrey whom I later found myself working for in my first radio job in Portland, Maine. I did have a female influence on the air — one of the few that was on the air in the 70's, Maxanne Sartori of WBCN. I started listening to this wonderful new FM, progressive station while I was in high school, and there was Maxanne, right from the start. Maybe it was because of that that later it never even crossed my mind that there was anything I couldn't do in radio, and the doors opened left and right for me just like many of the other stories here. My first mentor in actual on-air work was also my first PD, in Portland.

I had no female mentors but to be honest, the gender of my mentor never crossed my mind. In twenty years, at almost every station I worked, I was the sole full-time female DJ And I was hosting morning drive in my second year so I had no complaints.

This question about mentors, though, did give pause to the women In this article who noted this lack of women when they came into the busi-

ness. Kasey Kaufmann and Nancy MacDowell noted no female mentors, but both mentioned Jim Donovan and his wonderful style as an influence. Kaufman also credits the late Jack Barry whom she calls “a tremendous force on Public TV and radio.” He became a great friend of her family’s, and gave her “tons of useful feedback.”

Some of the women interviewed are conscious of being mentors themselves to a new generation. CeCe Wick says she has been a mentor for several women including Eileen Casey, formerly of WCAX and now with Adelphia, but, she says, “frankly, there were no women to show me the way.” Gena Gaughan - Boyden of Fox 44 consciously tries to help pave the wave for up and coming women. Mary Collins remembers “there were no women in broadcasting, that I recall, when I first started in 1979. I grew up listening to Val Carter on WDOT. (Val was, not a “Valerie” either!) Mary Siegreest-Jones at WVMT had come and gone, I think. It was a full 5 years before any other women came forward and took more meaningful roles: Women like Jody Peterson, Lana Wilder, Nancy Masino, Elise Brown and Diane Desmond:.” “There were,” she said, “a few who tripped over the mantle of leadership by being tough and that didn’t work well. I’ll leave their names out of this conversation. They were young and inexperienced and trying to find their way in a demanding business.”

Because of her own experience, Collins says “I try to provide support and some sort of mentorship to any women, or men for that matter, who wants to learn something about the business. I think that’s really im-

portant to do. There’s great wisdom in kindness,” she advises, “Don’t be a shark.”

Both Collins and myself want to mention the generous support of Tom Pierce who never shied away from hiring women in positions of authority. He helped us to hone our skills into becoming credible, professional broadcast managers. And always supported us on the air as well, with lots of enthusiasm.

Vermont has launched its share of stars — including Jeannie Moos of CNN, Dawn Fratangelo of Dateline NBC, Elizabeth Kaledin — medical correspondent for CBS News, and Linda Sherzer who went to CNN and then to Israeli TV as an anchor. All four are WPTZ alum.

It goes without saying that there are many more women who deserve mention, but short of writing a book, this sampling serves to tell the very positive story of broadcasting in Vermont.

As for my own story, it’s rather the reverse of many. I came to Vermont after working in numerous markets, including hosting morning drive Portland, Maine and Sacramento, California. I too was a single parent and saw Burlington as a great place to live and raise a child. I worked for WEZF for 7 years total, in two stints, with a couple of years in international radio in between, at an Irish-based station. I too experienced the close community and quality of working in broadcasting in Vermont. Vermont has left an indelible and wonderful mark on my life. It was a privilege to live and work there, as it was a privilege to have the chance to talk with the women of this article and to delve once again into broadcasting.

One last note: The VAB Hall of Fame contains the name of only one woman — in fifty years of broadcast history. That woman, Jean Walsh, was a long-time traffic manager at WCAX, and she was inducted in 1996. As displayed here, there are many women who have long and pioneering careers in Vermont broadcasting. Let’s hope their induction is soon!



*MaryEllen is studying for her Ph.D. in Theology at Loyola University. She is the author of "Living Well & Dying Well: A Sacramental View of Life and Death" (Sheed & Ward). Her book, "Living In Ordinary Time: The Letters of Agatha Rossetti Hessley" has just been published by ACTA Publications.*

[maryellenobrien1@mac.com](mailto:maryellenobrien1@mac.com)







# Still Crazy After All These Years



**PETER KING  
WDOT**

I was hired at WDOT just before graduating Ithaca College in the spring of 1978. Bill Hunter, an Ithaca grad, had been on campus to speak to my broadcast sales course. At the end of the class, I asked if he had any jobs. I sent him a tape and resume and was hired to be the midday jock and Program Director. Dennis Jackson made the call-telling me what a great group of people they had and how they had free donuts every morning. And made \$160.00 bucks a week. I was sold, sight unseen! A couple of weeks



later, I went up to meet the crew, see the place, and was promised a room for a couple of nights at the Radisson. I arrived at the Radisson, and knew something was up when THEY'D never heard of me-and had no reservation in my name. Turns out someone decided to put me in a rooming house with afternoon jock Bryan Burns for a fraction of the cost

of a real hotel! It was my first clue as to what was ahead!

I was hired as Program Director but was only allowed to do parts of the job-I was responsible for scheduling jocks-but only if Bill approved. I was responsible for the weekly playlist and music adds-but only if morning man Charlie Cunningham approved! Our weekly music meetings were sometimes a riot, sometimes excruciating! Some tunes were deemed "too hard," others which were more middle of the road were almost always approved. Being in my early 20s, of course, I wanted to rock a little more, so it was frustrating. Of course, the bottom line was that Bill didn't totally trust this 22 year old kid (me) and had older, wiser Charlie to watch out for his interests.

We had some great people-who also happened to be memorable characters. Where can I possibly begin?

We didn't have a fulltime engineer, but we had Dennis Jackson. Dennis did it all. He was mostly the Sales Manager, but he also had his first class FCC license and was a technical whiz. Problem was, Dennis was generally too busy with sales. I'm sure if there was smoke coming out of the board or transmitter, he would have been there!

George Commo was the midday jock and morning sports guy with Charlie Cunningham. He also did Cata-mounts hockey. George was a great sports guy (he LOVED his hockey!) I liked him a lot; unlike so many in this business, he had heart and soul and was a genuinely good guy.

continued...

Vince Wallace was our night guy when I arrived in the summer of '78. He wanted to be on the air more, but New York Yankees baseball preempted him more often than not. He'd get upset when people called him for the ball scores and ask "why don't you just listen to the radio?" That stopped one night when Bill Hunter called the request line, then, woke me the next morning with an angry phone call!

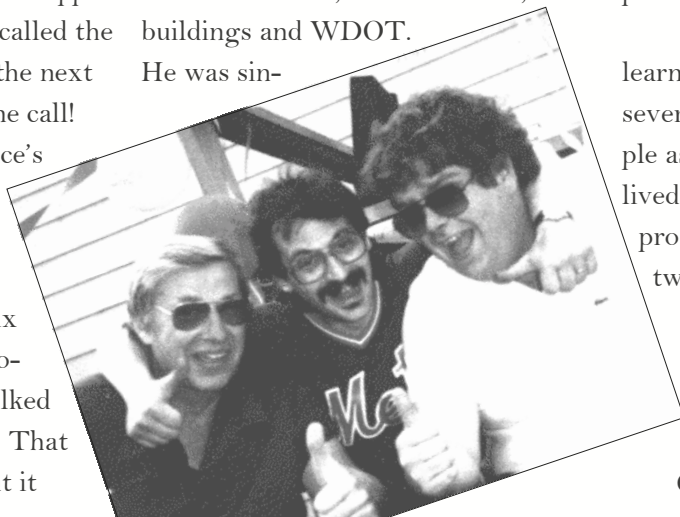
Then, there was Vince's Holy Cow. That was Phil Rizzuto's catch phrase on the Yankee broadcasts, and after awhile, Vince would mix in sound effects of a cow mooing...as if she were being milked in the stands at the Stadium! That lasted about three nights, but it was damned funny to this longtime Yankee hater!

Rod Hill, who I've heard in references as "Vermont Radio Legend," may be the most memorable of all, and some of his exploits WERE legendary! . He was, I think fifteen or sixteen, when I hired him as a part timer, enormously talented (with enormous hair!) and enthusiastic! He worked weekends along with RJ Potter and John Hill, but would come in often during the week just to hang out.

One Friday night after the station signed off, Rod decided to make some tapes in the on-air studio. That required plugging in some patch cords which kept the signal from going to the transmitter. Unfortunately, Rod forgot to pull the patches when he was done, and the next morning, Big John Hill wound up-unknowingly-doing a three hour radio show for one!

Can't remember who heard the dead air the next morning, but shortly thereafter, WDOT had a new rule-no more hanging out and playing in the studio for Roddy Hill! Didn't seem to hurt his career much, did it?

And then there was Bill Hunter. In 1978, he owned bars, buildings and WDOT. He was sin-



**"I pledge to watch the Trooper Yancy Show on WVNY-TV22 every chance I get. I'll report to the commanding officer at Fort Ethan Allen anyone who stands in front of my TV set while the Trooper Yancy Show is on the air. I'll do the drawing lesson on a piece of paper, not on the walls of my house. I will never call Trooper Hooper a dummy. I will always sing the Trooper Yancy song as loud as I can. This I do promise."**

gle and lived upstairs. That made for some interesting nights for the jock doing the late shift! Bill was tight with a buck, but he also had a heart. He didn't pay much but there WERE those free donuts and movie passes! He gave out Christmas bonuses my first year there and threw us nice Christmas parties, one at his bar, The Atwater Kent. (I still remember his clam chowder as being the best ever!). And after a year and a half there-when Bill decided someone else should be PD and PM jock-he demoted me and cut my salary, but also gave me time to look for a new job rather than fire me outright. I'll always be grateful

for that.

I'll also always be grateful that Bill and WDOT gave me a chance to be a PD in the "real" world. I grew up a lot there, and whatever adversity I encountered, I later understood was partly due to my own inexperience and my need to mature.

I had great times there, learned many important lessons, made several lifelong friends, and when people ask me where I've worked and lived, I never forget to tell them- proudly- that my life story includes two years in Burlington!

**Peter King**  
**Correspondent**  
**CBS News Radio**  
**Orlando/Kennedy Space Center**



**DENA YASNER**  
**WXXX**

I vividly recall one Saturday night when I was 18 years old, sitting in Rasputin's on lower Church Street with Dave Parker (WRUV-FM , WXXX-FM, WIZN-FM). He shouted

at me above the din, and I'm quoting here: "You have a really great voice, you should be doing radio". I had no idea what he was talking about - I thought radio was something *other* people did, surely not me? Or maybe....Shortly after that, I went to an organizational meeting for WRUV-FM, since I was a student at UVM. It was either that, or join a sorority. Then a few years later, another 'RUV staffer, Tod Warner (who owned Border nightclub upstairs from Nectar's on Main St.) knew one of the original owners of the new CHR station coming in to the market - WXXX-FM. Tod encouraged me to call & apply for the morning show side-kick position. I procrastinated for a couple of weeks & when I saw Tod the next time, he physically stood over me while I dialed the phone to arrange meeting the Program Director (Rob Poulin). Eventually, I got the job & with Mark Esbjerg, signed the station on. I spent 4 very happy years doing mornings at 95 Triple X - first with Mark, then with Walt Speck. I was fortunate to have on-the-job training, since I didn't have any commercial radio experience & was actually not very good at first. One of the other owners wanted me fired about every other day. Luckily everyone was patient with me.

I remember: The day we were launching our new jingle package, there was a typo in the morning show jingle copy & instead of the singers singing "It's a good, good morning with Mark & Dena, 95 Triple X", it came out "It's a good, good morning with Mark & Edna, 95 Triple X" - Needless to say, Mark had a blast with that all morning.

Crying in the production studio with Mark the day he told me he was leaving 95 Triple X to go to WVMT.

Traveling with Walt (and listeners) to numerous places/concerts - Live Aid in Philly; Atlantic Records' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bash at Madison SquareGarden in New York; Amnesty International tour in Montreal featuring U2; Peter Gabriel; Michael Jackson on the "Bad" tour in NYC; Huey Lewis & the News in Lake Placid; lots of great shows at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and in Montreal - too many to list.

Always looking forward to the Vermont ETV auction every year & getting to see folks from the other stations in town. I remember the time the Vermont Heart Association asked for any of our air staff to participate in a cross-country skiing benefit. I was the only one available but had never cross-country skied before. So they arranged for me to have a lesson a day or 2 before, and I was so sore from the lesson, I could barely stand on skis the day of the benefit.

I am thankful that my radio beginnings in Vermont turned into a 23-year career that included a stop in Kansas City and the past 15+ years in Phoenix.

**Dena Yasner**  
**Infinity Phoenix**  
**KMLE / KOOL / KZON**  
**Air Talent &**  
**Programming Assistant**  
**Phoenix, Arizona**

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**CLEAR  
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**ROD HILL &  
THOM RICHARDS  
WDOT, WOKO, WKOL,  
WJOY**

Only my old radio buddy Rod Hill would remember exactly which year, we really experienced the sometimes scary power of our medium.

We were younger (uhm young really) radio guys working at Bill Hunters WDOT in Burlington. About once a month we'd do 'Golden Greaser Weekends' playing the real golden oldies with plenty of doo-wop, etc. Back then Battery Park was open to vehicles and plowed for year-round access. Submarine Races were still staged there in those days. Rod and I had done lots of shows on these theme weekends and one Saturday night we were kind of bored and decided we'd try to do an homage to 'Wolfman Jack'. With me talking in a growly voice and Rod running the board (flawlessly as ever) and occasionally howling for emphasis, we referred to ourselves as 'Moonman and Pluto'. We thought it would be cool if we set-up a coordinated ruckus down at Battery Park. Nothing too rowdy just a synchronized blaring of car horns.

We took awhile on this one-time edition of the 'Moonman & Pluto' to encourage listeners to gather at the park and get ready to blow their horns. Just before the countdown to "blare-it" we opened the window at the venerable studios of WDOT at 395 College St. Our catty-corner, up-the-hill location gave us some hope to hear the few car horns we expected.

We gave the cue to the radio station's very loyal listeners and rolled



a tune so we could shut-up and listen. We were bowled over by the number of car horns we heard, so many that we thought that some of Burlington's finest would pay us a

visit. Rod and I were awestruck by the motivation we'd provided. "Hey everybody let's have some good times and make a little noise". Honest, innocent fun; there's still room for that, isn't there?

**Thom Richards  
HALL RADIO  
WOKO/WKOL/WJOY  
Burlington, Vermont**



**BETTY SMITH  
VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO**

During one of the very first fundraisers, we were in Windsor House. People would walk up a very long double set of stairs and folks in the studio could watch people coming up the stairs.

Peter Fox Smith was on the air during Saturday Afternoon at the Opera. We saw the door open and watched a little girl age 8 or 9 walk in. She handed Peter a jar of pennies.

Ricca Poor of Plainfield NH, with transportation provided by her father, Dan Poor, brought in her piggy bank. It was a lovely moment.

I remember driving through construction on I-89 in the summer, late 70s. Slowly winding thru the construction, I realized that the construction sites were listening to hearings VPR was broadcasting live. (I believe they were the Watergate hearings). It was a very sweet, exciting moment...a realization that VPR was really reaching into the community.

February/March 1978, NPR came to Windsor House to do station training. Noah Adams came down with some other folks. VPR volunteer Art Silverman was coordinating the training session from the VPR side. Together, VPR/NPR produced a half-hour documentary on maple sugaring – it aired 3/19/78. Noah and the trainers told Art he should apply for a job with NPR. He did, and he's been one of their top producers since then. Fred Wasser was another volunteer. He had graduated from Goddard and was one of the early producing engineers. He moved onto NPR in Washington.

My first office space, that's a great memory – really just a desk and a typewriter in the Discovery Museum in Essex Junction. The museum loaned us the desk, typewriter and space basically rent free as VPR's Project Director, Ray Dilley, worked half time for VPR and half-time as Director of the Discovery Museum. Part of The agreement for this rent-free space was for me to do some odd jobs around the Discovery Museum. Two of my most memorable: feeding live white mice to Namboo, the boa constrictor, and the owls. (The Discovery

Museum was a raptor/wildlife rescue center.

I remember on the first day of broadcast, the station aired the Goon Show and then the Lone Ranger. The tape of the Lone Ranger was on backward or the tape broke. It panicked the cluster of people grouped around the playback machine.

I remember days when the station made paychecks by rolling pennies.

I remember one of the first fundraisers held in Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester (early 80's). There was no heat, so everyone made do with space heaters, decked out in their winter coats, hats and mittens, doing what needed to be done to keep public radio going.

More recently, I recall being told by engineers that VPR was switching to digital editing. For years I had edited tape with a razor blade. Going digital meant a new way of thinking and working. It transformed how VPR works.

**Betty Smith**  
**VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO**  
**Colchester, Vermont**



**MARY L. COLLINS**  
**WJSC, WEZF, WIZN,**  
**WDOT, WKLZ, WLVB**

I spent 12 hours on a cramped bus to Philly in 1985 with the WIZN

crew to see what would become Rock & Roll History: Live Aid: Tina Turner with the Rolling Stones, Crosby, Stills & Nash, The Who, Tom Petty... Was there anybody who WASN'T there? Oh, yeah, Bruce Springsteen. Sigh!

I remember great friendships with my co-workers, particularly at WEZF - Chet Cook, Andy Potter, Dana Jewell, Russ Butler, Nino Abbott and others. It was a wonderful group that included some real veterans like Bernie Smyle, Bill Hobart and Roger Albright. Under Tom Pierce's leadership, we were given ample creative space and produced a series of original musical biographies called "The Great Ones" showcasing artists like Frank Sinatra, Mel Torme, and Judy Garland. WJOY, unbeknownst to them, provided a lot of the original recordings! At the time, they had a priceless album library. A friend, who worked there, let me in at night to "borrow" some of the rarer recordings for my WEZF show. Thanks WJOY!

Radio provided great support for local bands too. I don't hear much of that -- Except for Jack Donovan at WDEV, Nancy MacDowell at WLVB, or Russ Kinsley and Diane Desmond at WCLX, national caliber local artists like Diane Zeigler and Wayne Warner, among others, rarely get airplay.

Everyone has a "time" and I guess mine was the 80's. The people I worked for, like Norman and Scott Knight, Ken Squier, Bill Hunter & Russ Kinsley, were real broadcasters; not investment bankers. It made a difference. It still does.

**Mary L. Collins**  
**COLLINS COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Morrisville, Vermont**

**LINDA NOYES**  
**ABC22, WVNY**



The Trooper Yancy Show ran on WVNY from 1967-1971. I remember being in the WVNY studio when it was in Fort Ethan Allen (before the station was WEZF). I was there with my Girl Scout Troop. Trooper Yancy was there with his ventriloquist puppet, Trooper Hooper. We all recited the Trooper Yancy pledge in unison, "I pledge to watch the Trooper Yancy Show on WVNY-TV 22 every chance I get. I'll report to the commanding officer at Fort Ethan Allen anyone who stands in front of my TV set while the Trooper Yancy Show is on the air. ..."

Of course we all had to sing the Trooper Yancy Show song. I still remember it, or at least the first verse... "The Trooper Yancy Show, the Trooper Yancy Show, it is the place to go, for lots of fun you know...". Trooper Yancy introduced us each individually on camera. How exciting, to be on television! Who need some 15 or so years later I would be working at WVNY... and who knew 21 years later, I would still be there! My Trooper Yancy certificate and membership card sit framed in my office at WVNY.

**Linda Noyes**  
**ABC22, WVNY**  
**Burlington, Vermont**

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