



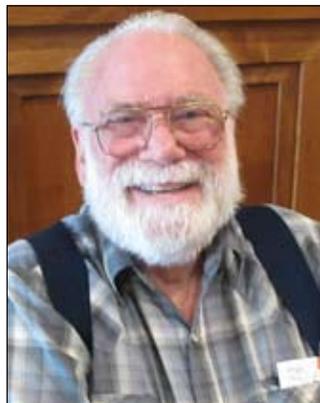
as the **TURNTABLE TURNS**

President's Message

by Art Gregory

President of The History of Idaho Broadcasting Foundation, Inc.

Greetings valued Members and fellow broadcasting fans! 2017 has been the biggest year in the Foundation's History, starting with the milestone achievement of the Internal Revenue Service granting our application to become a 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt Charity. I wish to thank two fellow-members of the Boise Southwest Rotary Club, Certified Public Accountant Peter Robbins of Eagle, and Boise Attorney Dick Cummings. Working directly with me, these two professionals suggested changes that needed to be made to our Articles of Incorporation, as well as our Corporate By-Laws so that our application was approved in record time, with only one minor modification! Our application to become a 501 (c) (3) charity was officially granted February 17, 2017, and we were notified by mail on February 24th. Our Tax ID number of **57-1236682** remains the same. All contributions to the Foundation are now tax deductible retroactive to January 1, 2017. Special thanks to the members who included an additional contribution in 2017 (this year) to help the Foundation achieve this goal. They include Wendy Green, Judy Fisher, Kathe Alters, Dick McGarvin and Larry Taylor. We also wish to thank to everyone who made an "extra" contribution last year, in 2016. And finally, I'd like to extend a special Thank You to Board Members Rockwell Smith, and Frank Aden Jr. for their unwavering support of the Foundation's mission for the past ten years.



Rockwell Smith was a surprise visitor at our May 26, 2017 Luncheon.

Vice President Frank Aden Jr. shown at one of our recent luncheon meetings.



Those Renewing their Memberships for one year (before we went to press with this issue) include; Jim Davidson's daughter Anita Slinger, and her husband Dick of Albany, Oregon; Norm and Paula Gunning of Meridian; Byron Defenbach of Boise; Bill Sargent of Star; Terry Moore of Boise; Phil Grey of Canyon City, Oregon, Thomas Hank of Baker City, Oregon, and Gil Rose Jr. of Boise. **Two year renewals** include Members Barry Lewis of Eagle and Jon Adamson of Boise, and Corporate Members Ken Ritchie of E.W. Scripps Broadcasting (owners of KIVI-TV and 4 FM stations in Boise); Robert Truman of Sinclair Broadcasting (owners of KBOI-TV), and Darrell Calton on behalf of Impact Radio Group (who operates 7 stations with offices in Boise and Nampa).

We have seven new members! We would like to welcome **Dennis Gratton** of Meridian, **Kim Day** of Boise, **Jan Lindner** of Meridian, **Jeff Caves** of Boise, **KJ Mac** of Meridian, **Betsy Bolland** of Boise, and **Mike and Becky Schroeder** of Boise as new Members to the Foundation!

Dennis Gratton is the son of Bill Gratton, the legendary announcer & newscaster who worked for KIDO-AM, KDSH-AM, KBOI AM-FM-TV, and KIVI-TV. Bill also served with great distinction as an Ada County Commissioner in the 1980s. He was so trusted

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by viewers, he was known as Boise's Walter Cronkite. I had lunch with Dennis earlier this year and he loaned us a number of old photos and other history of his father. We plan on doing a special issue of the magazine featuring this new information, and also want to host a luncheon program with Dennis and other members of the Gratton family in attendance to help tell "the Bill Gratton story." Welcome Dennis!



Dennis' father (sitting R) on the KBOI-TV News set with Dwight Jensen (sitting L) and Members Paul J. Schneider (standing L) and Marty Holtman (standing R).

Kim Day worked in Boise radio at KYME, KIDO, KFXD, and KHEZ-FM. For a time, Kim was the voice of Lyle Pearson, the Mercedes Benz dealer in Boise, doing a humorous imitation of



Arnold Schwarzenegger! Kim was (and still is) an excellent writer and producer, and won numerous "Best Radio Commercial" awards from the Idaho Advertising Federation. We hope to meet with Kim and get copies of any photos and other historical material he may have! He attended our May 26th Meeting and enjoyed it very much. Welcome Kim.

Kim Day in a recent photo.

Jan Lindner, KRBX Radio Boise, has attended many of our monthly luncheon meetings and her photo was featured in our last issue. She grew up watching Boise Television in the 1960's and was a member of KBOI-TV's Dracula Deadbeats Club and still has her Membership Certificate signed by Claude Gloom (aka Member Marty Holtman)! Her best friend growing up was Candy Gilbert,



whose father was Steve Gilbert, who for a time was General Manager of KYME, taking over from Jim Schroeder (see below)! Steve Gilbert also worked in Radio Sales at KBOI, and Candy Gilbert was the high school sweetheart of my late identical twin brother, John Gregory. In fact, John was married to Candy for eleven years prior to his passing in 2002. It's indeed a small world.

Jan Lindner at recent Foundation Luncheon.

KJ Mac worked for KFXD in the late 1970's and then moved to KGEM-AM as morning man in the early 1980's. In 1985, KBOI-FM changed formats from Easy Listening to Country and changed call letters to KQFC, to stand for "Favorite Country." Chris Ackerman (aka Chris Adams) left his role as Program Director at KJOT to work for Member Charles Wilson as KQFC's Program Director. KJ made the move with Chris to KQFC, and stayed with the station for many years. A lot happened during KJ's tenure at the "Q" and we plan to sit down with him and get all of the details.

After KQFC, KJ went to work for former KBOI Citadel Market Manager Monty Ivy at Horizon Broadcasting. At that time, Horizon operated two FM's, one at 99.1 MHz and another at 100.7 MHz, which both transmitted from Bennett Mountain. Horizon Broadcasting didn't last long, and soon KJ landed at Journal Broadcasting's KTHI-FM ("K-Hits") where he did a variety of air-shifts. When that ended, KJ was hired to do mornings on "Kool Oldies" at 99.5 until it was sold in August of 2016 to Educational Media Foundation, who then changed formats to Contemporary Christian. However, prior to that happening, Member Impact Radio Group bought the intellectual property rights to the station and moved both the format and call letters to KSRV-AM's 1380 frequency in Ontario, so they could continue using the call letters KKOO. Impact then arranged to rebroadcast the AM signal on a Deer Point translator at 101.5 MHz and maintained their excellent numbers in the latest Nielsen Ratings! We hope to get "the rest of the story" from KJ soon...but in the meantime enjoy this vintage photo of KJ, singer Dolly Parton, and fellow DJ Al Jackson taken during his time at KQFC.



Jeff Caves began his radio career at KIDO-AM as a sales person, and was also the first co-host of "Idaho Sports Talk." In addition, Jeff did sports updates on "The Morning Report" on KIDO. In 1988 Idaho Sports Talk moved to K-106 FM and its sister station KSGR-AM, which stood for "Solid Gold Radio" and was what they programmed. In 1991 KSGR became "All News Radio" KANR and Idaho Sports Talk continued under the new format. The station was then sold to Diamond Sports and became KTIK on July 7, 1994, changing formats to "all sports." Jeff became the Station Manager and expanded Idaho Sports Talk to 5 days per week. In 2000, the station increased power to 5,000 watts and changed frequencies to 1350. Jeff then helped facilitate the sale of the station to Citadel and stayed on with the new owners. On January 26, 2011, KTIK-FM

at 93.1 KHZ began to simulcast with KTIK-AM. Today, Jeff Caves remains the co-host of one of the longest running radio programs in Idaho Broadcasting history, Idaho Sports Talk! Welcome Jeff.



Jeff Caves and Paul J. Schneider in 2006.

Betsy Bolland is a senior account executive at Member Townsquare Media, and is married to Mark Bolland who was a KFXD and KJR personality in the 1970s and early 1980s. Betsy and Mark were the former owners of Pacific Empire Radio Group which owned multiple stations in Lewiston, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls. Upon retiring from ownership after the radio group was sold, Mark and Betsy moved to Boise and both worked for Peak Broadcasting, which has since become Townsquare Media. Mark left Peak and started his own business where he now does media and advertising consulting, radio, television, video production, and more, while Betsy remained with Townsquare. In addition to being a superb account executive, Betsy is also an expert baker! Every Christmas she bakes home-made sugar cookies for her clients. Betsy also recently donated \$100.00 to the Foundation's "Building Fund" which we deeply appreciate. Welcome Betsy, and thanks for your many years of service to the broadcasting business!



Members Betsy Bolland and Lucas Babin at the February 2015 Luncheon.

And finally we'd like to welcome **Mike and Becky Schroeder** of Boise, the owners of Schroeder Creative, an advertising agency that specializes in graphic design. Mike's father, the late Jim Schroeder, worked for Boise Valley Broadcasters (KBOI AM-FM-TV) as a sales person in the early 1960s. Then in the mid 1960's, Jim was KYME-AM's Chief Engineer and worked for Keith Patterson who owned the station which was located at 5th and Washington Street in the Basement of the Columbia Building (where the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is now located). Jim also did announcing and sales at KYME, and was a skilled and talented broadcaster. Members Doug Copsey and Dick Stott worked at KYME on

Washington Street in 1963 and early 1964, when Bob Salter was Program Director, and former KBOI-TV Weatherman Jack Carroll was a salesman there.

In 1964, Keith Patterson sold KYME to Maurice W. Brainard of Whittier, California, who brought in several local investors as minority owners, including a new Station Manager named Ken Stuart. Prior to the sale, KYME moved to the Hillcrest Plaza and was in a portable trailer house for a while as the Mall was being built. Manager Ken Stuart soon left, and Jim Schroeder became Station Manager, right after the station switched formats to rock in the summer of 1964.

In addition to Dick Stott and Doug Copsey, Johnny Lytle was also a disc jockey at KYME, arriving in the fall of 1964. Lytle died February 17, 1965 in a Corvette crash after missing the "curve" at Middleton on Highway 44, just like in the song "Dead Man's Curve" by Jan and Dean. KGEM disc jockey Dennis Dunn, Lon Dunn's brother, was riding in the Corvette as Lytle's passenger and was ejected from the car when it crashed into a drain culvert. Dennis was severely burned and suffered a broken leg but somehow lived. Johnny Lyle was not so lucky and was trapped in the car, which burst into flames.

Shortly after Johnny's tragic death, Del Chapman was hired away from KIDO by Jim Schroeder, and became KYME's Program Director in early 1965. Del stayed until the fall of 1968 and then moved to KOIL in Omaha. Del tells the story of the huge "going away" party Jim Schroeder threw for him at the Schroeder home... where they drove motorcycles in the back yard and tore up the grass! But Jim Schroeder didn't care...he loved those DJ's, and they LOVED HIM!

After Del left KYME, Jim moved on, and Steve Gilbert (who was good friends with Member Bob Ahmann) became KYME's Manager. He was replaced by KATN's Arnett Bates, who was followed by a series of managers, including Duane Wolfe (from KCID), and Robert E. Lees.

In early 1971, KYME moved out of the Hillcrest Plaza and into a trailer house at the transmitter site, changing formats to golden-oldies in 1971, and then switched back to top-40 in mid 1972 when Jim Hawkes was Manager. Member David Hagen (Paul King) was Program Director at KYME for a time in 1972, right after KSPD went off the air in May of 1972. KYME then switched back to playing current-rock to help fill the void. Member Lizz Tucker worked at KYME's "C.A.P." Capital Audio Productions as a voice talent with Jack Sunday, who later worked at KFXD.

Tom Hotchkiss bought into the station in early 1973 and Mark Hopkins became PD. They also hired Victoria Holloway as one of Boise's first fulltime female DJs. I (Art Gregory) was PD at KYME for almost 2 years from early 1974 until late 1975, and changed the format to soft pop and album-rock cuts with a little jazz and classical mixed in. We played Member Dick McGarven's excellent single "Peaceful" on Uncle Bear Records and I have a copy of the letter I sent Dick letting him know we were playing his record and that the public loved it. I left KYME in November of 1975 and went to KIDO.

KYME continued on for 7 years as a jazz and classical station until 1982 when the station was sold to Fred Constant, the owner of KIZN, a new FM station on 93.1 licensed to New Plymouth.

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Constant moved both KYME and the new KIZN-FM in to “The Johnson House” at 10th & Franklin in downtown Boise, which was right across from Boise High School. They continued as KYME for a while but soon changed call letters to KTOX and went with ABC Radio’s new syndicated “Talk Radio Network” delivered via satellite. A few years later they moved the signal from 740 KHZ, which was a Canadian Clear Channel, to 730 KHZ so they could broadcast at night, but with very limited power. When the KTOX talk format didn’t work they became KIZN-AM on June 18, 1987, duplicating KIZN’s country format during the day, and broadcasting high school sports at night. Both KIZN-AM and KIZN-FM were sold to Pacific Telecom, and the FM became KZMG on April 26, 1990, with the AM becoming KUCL on May 1, 1990. They soon shut the AM station down and donated it to KBSU and the 730-AM frequency became a non-commercial station on February 18, 1992.

In July of 2011 Boise State sold the station to Impact Radio Group who changed the call letters to KINF and the format to all news. The call letters then changed to KNFL and the format to all sports on October 1, 2013. Impact has now sold the station to Radio Rancho, and it was off the air for a few weeks. On March 10, 2017 KNFL changed call letters to KDBI and is now all Spanish, rebroadcasting the signal of KDBI-FM which is licensed to Homedale! When I relayed all of this information to Mike in a recent email he said

“Art, I am so impressed with the energy and commitment you have for the History of Idaho Broadcasting cause overall. I was amazed by that backyard party, as a kid I thought I can’t wait to grow up and go to parties like these! I do remember the Columbia Building. Dad became good friends with a young up-coming architect that was in that building too, named Art Albanese, who later teamed up with Zabala and Giltzow to form ZGA. For a long time Art (Albanese) helped guide me as I thought I wanted to be an architect, but the designer / art side of won out. Johnny (Lytle) was like Mom & Dad’s oldest kid, he was over all the time, and it was so sad when he died, Dad was devastated. Del (Chapman) and Chris (Del’s wife), used to stay at our house and watch us kids when Mom and Dad would go out of town, Del taught me how to bowl! Lots of great memories.”

Welcome Mike and Becky!



Pictured here at the May 2016 HIBF Meeting are Mike and Becky Schroeder, along with Becky’s father Gary Morrison, who is remembered for his raspy “James Earl Jones” style radio voice-work done for International Stone and Merrill’s Compost through Mike’s Ad Agency, Schroeder Creative.

Special Gifts During Idaho Gives. When the Foundation received our tax-exempt status as a 501 (c) (3) charity, that allowed us to join The Idaho Nonprofit Center and participate in “**Idaho Gives**” the huge state-wide “on-line” fundraiser on May 4, 2017. It has always been our mission to build a permanent and living repository for the preservation of the history of radio and television broadcasting within the State of Idaho. We have the opportunity to do that, but need to raise \$50,000 for a down payment to purchase the original KFXD Studios at 1024 12th Avenue South in Nampa, which were built in 1937. The down payment also covers the “matching funds” we need to raise to apply for a grant for the remainder of the purchase price.

As reported in the January issue of *As the Turntable Turns*, Member David Ferdinand has been working with the owner of the building. We toured the building in February, and it is in wonderful condition. The owner may be willing to carry the papers until we can pay it off. Our plan is to not occupy the building immediately, but instead to acquire it as an asset of the Foundation. This will serve two purposes: (a) To preserve the building as a historical radio station and not sold to a developer, and (b) to eventually occupy the building as a Museum and Education Center for Idaho Broadcasting. We realize this is huge undertaking. However, we have studied how other organizations have successfully done this in Chicago and in the San Francisco Bay Area, and we will model our museum after theirs. Plus, now that we are a tax exempt charity,

we believe the funds are “out there” to do this, especially though grants and endowments from other Nonprofit Foundations. However, to make this project become an immediate reality, we need to reach out to our members and others in the public, and ask for private donations to raise the \$50,000 down payment.



This building will be MORE than a just MUSEUM of Idaho Broadcasting; it will become the **History of Idaho Broadcast Education Center** and will help bring to the community a broader knowledge of how pioneers in Idaho Broadcasting created enormous impact on the evolution of society, as well as providing a training facility for future radio and television broadcasters!

Contributions of any amount are needed, but especially those of \$250.00 or greater. We realize some of you have already donated “extra” funds to help us obtain the 501 (c) (3), and we certainly appreciate that and will apply those contributions towards a special “Building Fund.” These funds will not be used for any other purpose. On May 5, 2017, fourteen (14) Members and non-members who support our efforts made tax-exempt donations through “Idaho Gives.”

Earlier in the year when the Foundation became a 501 (c) (3) organization, **David Ferdinand** arranged for his family trust to get the wheels rolling by donating \$1,000.00. Thank You David and the entire Ferdinand Family! This initial contribution will cover our earnest money deposit. Of the remaining \$49,000, we have now raised almost \$3,900.00 of it.



We would like to especially thank Member **Clint Tinsley** for his generous contribution of \$1,000.00. In a word, WOW! Clint's impressive broadcast career goes back to KGEM and KYME in the late 1960s. He also worked for KATN and KBBK-FM, KIVI in Boise and KPVI in Pocatello, and even helped KTVB with the coverage of the Idaho Centennial in 1990. You can read all about Clint in his extensive and well written “Bio” on our website [HistoryofIdahoBroadcasting.Org](http://www.historyofidahobroadcasting.org) under the headline “people.” Here's the exact URL to Clint's Bio.

<http://www.historyofidahobroadcasting.org/index.php/12-people/401-clint-tinsley>

While Clint made his contribution by check, 14 other Members donated on line at “Idaho Gives” including; Member Faye Zamzow,

\$1,000.00, another Member (who chose to remain anonymous and used to work at KFXD) donated “580” dollars, Corporate Member Cumulus Broadcasting stepped up and donated \$250.00 on behalf of Blair Crook, Member Catlin Cauffman, and Market Manager Don Morin. Also donating \$250.00 were new Members Mike & Becky Schroeder in loving memory of Mike's father Jim Schroeder (former General Manager of KYME). Corporate Member Thomas Chris donated \$100.00, and Member Katlin Cauffman, donated another \$100.00 on her own, as did Jeff Caves, host of the long-running “Idaho Sports Talk” heard on KTIK AM & FM. Member Lucas Babin of KFXD's current owner, Townsquare Media, and new Member Betsy Bolland each donated \$100.00 privately We also had another Member who chose to remain anonymous donate \$100.00 and an anonymous non-member donated \$10.00. We had three Members donate \$50.00 each, and two Members donated \$25.00 each. We'd also like to thank Members Tom Scott, Stephan Hanford, KJ Mac, Lizz Tucker and Dave Hagan (aka Paul King). Together, you helped us raise \$2890.00 towards our “Building Fund”



Clint Tinsley

Recent Items Donated to the Foundation include a series of audio clips from **Bob Anthony** that feature both jingles and promos KFXD-AM from the early 1980s, and an air-check of KBBK-FM during their initial “Magic 92” era which began January 2, 1978. Member **Doug Copsey** also donated a number of electronics pieces from his home studio, including a vintage Teac A-3300SX-2T stereo reel to reel tape recorder, a Yamaha 6-channel audio amplifier and receiver, and vintage set of Sansui SP-2000 speakers which Doug purchased overseas in the late 1960s or early 1970s! The reel-to-reel machine is needed to transfer 2 track stereo analog tapes to digital computer files. Thank you Bob Anthony and Doug Copsey.

Paul J. Schneider has been Nominated for the National Radio Hall Fame! The Chicago organization recently announced the names of the 24 people who have been nominated



in six different categories, as determined by the organization's Nominating Committee. Four of those categories, including Longstanding Local/Regional (20 years or more), the one Paul J was nominated for, will be voted on by a “participant panel” comprised of nearly 1,000 industry professionals. They'll receive confidential ballots from Votem, the same voting service used by the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. Votes will then be tallied by certified public accounting firm Miller Kaplan Arase.

In addition to Paul J of Boise, other nominees in the **Longstanding Local/Regional (20 years or more)** category include John

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“Records” Landecker of Chicago, Johnny Holliday of Washington, D.C., and Donnie Simpson, also of Washington, D.C. The remaining two categories will be voted on by the public, and include eight nominations for Music Format On-Air Personality, and Spoken Word On-Air Personality. Winners will be announced June 26th, and the induction ceremony will be held Thursday, November 2nd at the Museum of Broadcast and Communications in downtown Chicago. I have visited that museum and seen the Hall of Fame, and we hope to model our future Museum of Idaho Broadcasting after theirs, and perhaps make some improvements in how the inductees are presented.



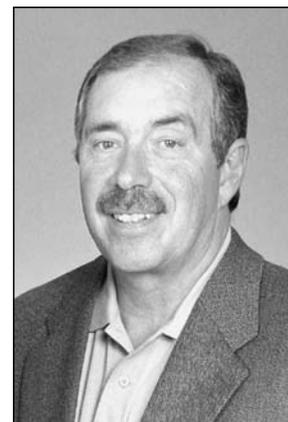
Boise Mayor Dave Bieter gave Paul J. Schneider the Key to the City. This is the highest honor the city can bestow upon a resident, and was awarded to Paul to celebrate and honor his 50-year broadcasting career in Boise. The Mayor did the surprise presentation live on the air Friday June 9th during “Idaho’s First Morning News,” the show Schneider hosts along with Chris Walton on 670-KBOI. The Mayor also proclaimed June 9th ‘Paul J Day’ in Boise, saying “Paul J. and his voice are Boise icons. His integrity and longevity has made him of one the most trusted and recognized media figures in our community. I’m honored to present him with the Key to the City for his distinguished, and unfinished, career.”

In addition to calling play-by-play sports on KBOI, Paul has called horse races at Les Bois Park for 29 years, and is currently the chairman of the Idaho State Racing Commission. He has been a Heisman Trophy voter for 25 years, and voted for several years in the Harris Interactive Football Poll. In fact Paul J has won more than 50 Idaho State Broadcasting Association awards for broadcast excellence. Congratulations Paul J! We look forward to seeing you on August 25th (see below)!

Upcoming luncheon meetings in 2017 include June 30, July 28, Aug 25, Sept 29, Oct 27, Nov 17 (the 3rd Friday of the month due to Thanksgiving), and Dec 29. We meet at Smoky Mountain Pizza & Grill on Parckcenter Boulevard in Southeast Boise from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. This is not a “hosted” event, so you pay for your own lunch, but there is no other charge to attend, and you do not need to be a Foundation Member to attend, and can bring as many guests as you wish!

On August 25th we will be hosting a special tribute to Paul J. Schneider, who in 2017, will have been on KBOI Radio for 50

years. Paul started in August of 1967 at KBOI AM-FM-TV as a reporter, and soon worked his way up to being both Sports Director and a Sports Anchor. In 1975, Charles Wilson purchased KBOI AM-FM Radio from Boise Valley Broadcasters, and Channel 2 became KBCI-TV. Paul stayed with the TV side, but from 1975-1977, continued to do play-by-play of the Boise State Broncos and other sports broadcasts for KBOI Radio, while he worked for KBCI-TV. So, there was never a time Paul was “not” on KBOI Radio. In 1977, Paul made the switch to KBOI Radio and has been there ever since, outlasting 4 separate owners! We’ll know by then if Paul is inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame, so plan on joining us on August 25, 2015 as we honor “Paul J” and celebrate his achievement of 50 years at one station, which by the way, is a record no one else has ever reached!



Our luncheon on **September 29th will be a KFXD 70’s Reunion** hosted by Member Tom Scott! Get ready for everything “XD” as we celebrate KFXD’s “Glory Years” during the 1970s and perhaps a little of the early 1980s! We’ll have photos, music surveys, jingles, air checks, Wayne Cornils Editorials, and lots of stories from all those attending! This will be BIG so make your plans now to attend and invite any KFXD Alumni who worked at the station from 1970-1982.



Afternoon DJ Eric Hale in the “new” 1973 KFXD Control Room.



Member David Hagen showing off his ISBA Best Newscaster Award at KFXD.

Idaho Public Television General Manager Ron Pisaneschi has been inducted into the Silver Circle of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Chapter. The Silver Circle honors media professionals who began their careers in television at least 25 years ago, either in a performing, creative, technical or administrative role within the industry or in an area related to television, such as TV journalism education, advertising, promotion, or public relations. Pisaneschi, who is a Member of the Foundation, came to Idaho Public Television in 1985, and has served as general manager since August 2013. During his 32 years at IPTV, Ron has also served as director of public information, director of marketing, director of programming, and director of content. Under his leadership, Idaho Public Television has regularly attracted the largest viewership, per capita, in the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) system. He holds a fine arts degree in film and photography from Lone Mountain College (now a part of the University of San Francisco) and has also worked in educational filmmaking, radio programming, public relations and marketing. In addition to his work for Idaho Public Television, he served for two terms as chairman of the board of directors of the Idaho Humanities Council. Pisaneschi and eight fellow inductees were honored at the Silver Circle Reception on June 2, and formally inducted at the 54th Annual Northwest Regional Emmy Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 3 in Seattle. Congratulations, Ron!



promoted to Traffic Department Manager, a position she kept after Clear Channel was acquired by Peak Broadcasting. “I have always considered getting paid to work with the creative and amazing people that are drawn to radio such a privilege,” said Castorena. Currently, there are seven stations owned by Impact Radio Group, including KQBL (101.9 The Bull), KQBL-HD3 (96.5 The Alternative), KZMG (MY 102.7), KWYD (WILD 101), KSRV (96.1 BOB FM), KKOO (KOOL OLDIES 101.5), and 99.1 ESPN RADIO BOISE. Impact Radio Group has been operating in Idaho since March of 1999.



Impact Radio Group and “Alexa” to bring radio back into the home. Member Darrell Calton, CEO of Impact Radio Group feels Amazon’s Echo offers an opportunity to get local radio stations played more in the home and office. Users of the Alexa platform can use a one time start phrase such as “Alexa enable Impact Radio.” Then the user simply says “Alexa ask Impact Radio to “play 96.1 BOB-FM” or any of Impact’s six other stations, and that particular station immediately starts to stream music and content. With the popularity of wireless internet, an Amazon Echo unit could be placed almost anywhere in the home or office, and many are rechargeable, portable, and can even be connected to Bluetooth speakers. Calton added “While we’re not the first radio group to add an Alexa skill for listening, we are certainly one of the few, and very proud to stand at the forefront of what may be a resurgence of in-home radio listening.”



Cumulus Market Manager Don Morin has been promoted to Regional Manager of the companies Eugene and Reno stations! This is in addition to managing the 6 Boise Cumulus stations which include KBOI and KTIK AM, and 4 FM stations, KTIK-FM, KQFC, KKGL, and KIZN. In addition to KBOI, the Reno stations include another 50,000 watt “blow torch” KKOH (“KOH”), and 3 FM stations, including KNEV at 95.5, KBUL at 98.1, and 102.9 KWYL. In Eugene, Don will oversee 6 radio stations -

2 AM stations and 4 FM. They include 590-AM KUGN and 1320 AM, KSCR, which now airs a Spanish format. The FM stations include KUJZ at 93.3, KZEL at 96.1, KEHK at 102.3, and 103.4 KRNQ. The formats range from News Talk and Sports on the AM stations, to Classic Rock, Alternative Rock, Adult Contemporary, and Hip-Hop. Congratulations to Don on this well-deserved promotion from Cumulus!

Congratulations to Crystal Casterena who has been named GM of Impact Radio Group’s Boise cluster effective Thursday January 12th, 2017. According to Member Darrell Calton, Impact Radio Group CEO, Castorena was recruited by Impact Radio Group in April of 2012 into the position of Business Manager. Castorena started her radio career as a part time receptionist with Clear Channel, was moved into the traffic department and subsequently

Spanish Radio on the AM Band in Boise! The AM band in Boise sounds different these days with one more Spanish station and one less Spanish station on the air, plus a host of other stations running Spanish religious programming! Impact Radio Group has sold their Boise AM station at 730 on the dial (the former facilities of KYME, KTOX, KIZN, KBSU-AM, KINF, and most recently KNFL) to Radio Rancho of Helena, Montana. Impact has had a long standing relationship with Radio Rancho’s owner, who operates two Spanish language FMs in Boise. Their FM station, KPDA at 100.7 still transmits from Bennett,



and is now licensed to Mountain Home, while sister station KBDI at 106.3 remains licensed to Homedale and transmits from a site in the Owyhee Mountains South of Marsing.

730-AM has dropped their ESPN Sports format along with



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the KNFL call letters and has now become KBDI-AM and is re-broadcasting the KBDI-FM Spanish signal on the AM band, which is also heard on Boise translator 106.7 from Table Rock. Meanwhile 950-AM, KMHR which is licensed to Boise (the former KATN facilities) is supposed to be on the air broadcasting a Spanish format which is then re-broadcast on a 250 watt Boise FM translator at Deer Point at 98.3 MHz. However, KMHR has been off the air and “silent” for many months...yet the FM translator remains on the air. Steve Sumner, the President of First Western who owns both stations, has a history of owning AM and FM stations that have left the air, not to return until many months later. We have checked the FCC files for both stations and there are not any pending applications, nor any correspondence indicating why the AM station is currently off the air, and when (and if) it will be returning.

The call letter history for 950 AM began as KATN in April of 1961. The station changed to KBRJ (to stand for Burt Rex Jack, the owners of Magicland Broadcasting who bought the station from Ralph Frazer in October of 1972), and then was sold to Steve Sumner in 1978 and changed call letters to KKIC in October of 1981. In June of 1987, the station became “K-Joy” and took on the call letters KJHY. However, they went back to KKIC in February of 1988, and then switched back to KJHY in August of 2003! The call letters were changed to the current call sign of KMHR on August 1, 2011, and the station has now been off the air for at least 3 months (or longer). Other stations running Spanish programming on the AM band in Boise include KYWN at 890 on the dial owned by Impacto Network. They are running 50,000 watts during the day and 250 watts at night, non-directional. These are the former KDJQ daytime facilities. KCID-AM, 1,000 watts at 1490, runs Spanish religious programming. They are owned by Salt and Light Radio and run programming supplied by the Catholic Church. Finally, Notus station KTRP, owned by Centro Familiar Cristino, also runs Spanish programming at 1450 on the AM dial with 1,000 watts.

This is former facilities of KYET in Payette, and for a time was known as KWEI. 1450-AM's call letter history is as follows: KYET 1965, KACY October of 1984, KIOV January 1990, and then as KWEI for 3 years from March of 2011 to March of 2014, when they became KTRP. For a time the station was owned by Member John Runkle, and Managed by Foundation Webmaster and Board Member Rockwell Smith.

From 2011 to 2014, 1260 KWEI became KTRP (“K-Trip”) and broadcast a classic country format, while the Spanish programming that had been on KWEI for many years, moved to 1450. For a time both stations were co-owned by Member Randy Williamson. Meantime 1260-AM, which changed its call letters back to KWEI in 2014, has resumed broadcasting and is also now airing religious programming in Spanish. KWEI is now owned by Educational Media Foundation who purchased 99.5 KKOO-FM from Randy Williamson last summer, as covered in our previous article about KJ Mac. Confused yet?



The FM Translators are here! In case you haven't noticed, there are a lot new signals on the FM band in the Boise market. In the past year or so (and in recent months) several new translators have gone on the air rebroadcasting the AM signals of



KSPD at 94.5 FM, KGEM at 102.3, KTRP-AM at 103.1, and now KIDO at 107.5 FM! These new signals join the existing translators at 93.5 for KRBX-FM (“Radio Boise”) and 3 translators owned by Impact Radio Group that rebroadcast the separate formats of 2 of their “HD” stations, including 96.5 (“The Alternative” which is also heard at KQBL-HD 3) and 99.1 (“ESPN Boise” which is also heard at KQBL-HD 2).

As we mentioned earlier, KKOO-AM, which is also heard on KZMG-HD 2, is now rebroadcast on a translator at 101.5 FM and did quite well in the latest Nielsen Radio Ratings. Thus, these low power FM translators that range from 100 to 250 watts, could help strengthen the listenership and ratings for some struggling AM stations, as well as giving AM listeners a much better signal in stereo.



KQFC is Back! Cumulus Media of Boise has dropped the syndicated “Nash FM” programming and on Monday, April 3rd KQFC went back to its roots of playing country songs from the 80's, 90's and early 2000's. This means that KQFC is returning to the music that made it successful. At its peak, KQFC pulled a 17.2 Share 12+ Mon-Sun the Spring of 1992 Arbitron Ratings. Core artists include George Strait, Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, Brooks & Dunn, and Tim McGraw just to name a few. KQFC has also tapped several of the best known personalities in the Boise market with Steve Shannon doing mornings, Tommy Collins doing middays, and Program Director Hank Aaron doing afternoon drive.

Cumulus says that “KQFC is a station that is extremely focused on the music and its relationship with the listeners.” That was certainly the case in the early 1990s when Program Director Paul Wilson pulled huge shares, even with KIZN as a direct competitor. Let's see if “history” repeats itself, which is undoubtedly what Cumulus hopes for. We wish them good luck and applaud this move.



1993 KQFC Fishing Contest at Zamzows “new” Federal Way store. Pictured L-R are Art Gregory, contest winner from Mountain Home Air Base, Store Manager Eric Tabb, Program Director Paul Wilson, Zamzows co-owner Rick Zamzow, and KQFC announcer Al Jackson.



J-105 is Back! Just like KQFC's management, the management of E.W. Scripps' KJOT want to recapture the glory days when KJOT dominated the ratings in the rock & roll category. In January of 1985,

KIDQ ("Q-104") dropped their syndicated Burkhart-Abrams "Superstars" Album Rock format and became KUUB ("KWB") for about a month. When that didn't work out, they changed call letters to KLTB ("K-Lite") and switched formats to Adult Contemporary. In response, country-formatted KJOT moved in to fill the void left by Q-104 and became "J-105, Idaho's Best Rock" in the summer of 1985.

According to the Scripps website, *"For more than twenty-five years, it was the soundtrack to summers and the backdrop to winters. In recent years, we've lived by another name, but now we're reclaiming the heritage the station once owned. The same attitude. Live, local on-air talent. We once again have special features that are a part of Idaho's original rock station. Electric Lunch. Two-fer Tuesdays. Deep Cuts. Entertaining, highly visible promotions. And the broad classic rock library that J105 played long before they became classics."*

We're not sure we can improve on that explanation, and as with KQFC, we wish them good luck and applaud the move!

Bill Bailey's Celebration of Life took place on April 29th at the Stone House in Boise. For some readers outside of Boise, you may not have heard of Bill Bailey, who passed away on March 13, 2017 at the age 62 of cancer. However, he was a well known and popular Disc Jockey and Traffic Reporter in Boise for many years, and was the founder and former owner of "Boise Metro Traffic."

He was born David Terrill Faught in 1954 and grew up in Boise's East end. I met him at Roosevelt Elementary School in 1961. We became fast friends and had many common interests, including radio and television, and ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars. Since David was best known to most readers by his air name, we are going to refer to him as "Bill" from this point on.

A big crowd attended the celebration which was hosted by Bill's daughter, Chrystal, who was also a Boise radio personality using the name "Claire Day." A number of Bill's other family was there too, including his son and step daughter. Bill did not dwell at all on his past radio career, and despite my efforts, we never did get



Bill's daughter Chrystal and her daughter welcome the guests. The photo board showing her father's life can be seen in the background.

to sit down and "talk" about his broadcasting career on tape, but I learned a lot about Bill's life and career at the celebration, and will share some of that with you.

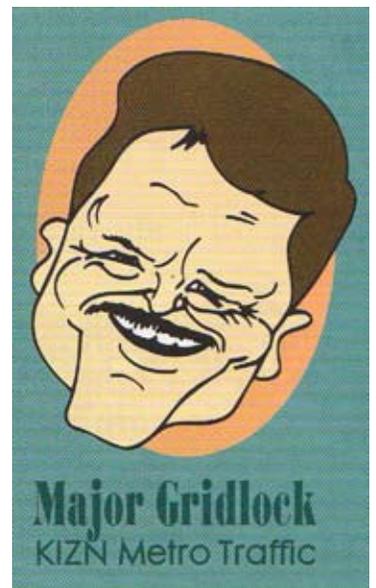
According to Crystal, as a teenager, Bill used to love to go up into the hills, away from the city, camp out, and listen to AM distant radio stations. One of the stations he could get was 890 AM, WLS in Chicago. One of the announcers he heard (and loved) was "Bill Bailey" the morning man. In 1973, David graduated from Boise High School and went to work for KBRJ-AM and KBBK-FM and when asked what air name he wanted to use, he instantly said "Bill Bailey!"

Foundation Board Member and Webmaster, Rockwell Smith, was Chief Engineer at KBBK and KBRJ at the time, and posted this tribute to Bill on the Foundation's website.

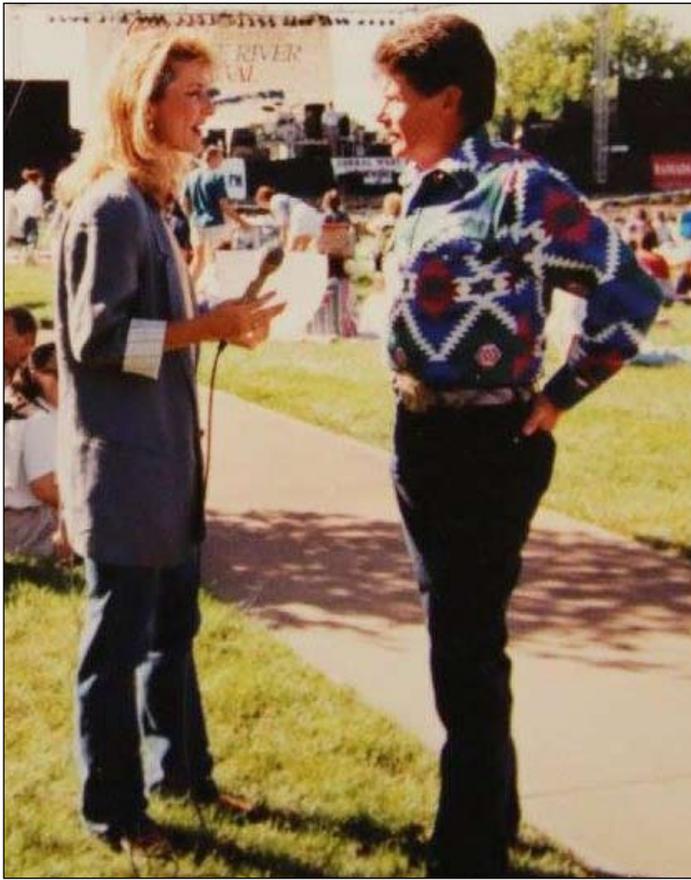
As webmaster, and a friend of Bill since I moved to Boise in 1973, I would like to add I am honored to have known Bill. We worked together starting in 1973 when I took over the job of Chief Engineer of KBBK-FM & KBRJ-AM. Bill was eager to learn, and had a true passion for radio. I taught him everything I could, and proudly watched him grow his dream far beyond what I could have ever shared. He gave so much, and helped so many others get their careers started. He was a real asset to radio in the Treasure Valley. His contribution will live long in the lives of those he influenced. He will truly be missed.

The Foundation also has some air-checks from Rockwell from 1973 when Bill was on KBBK, and even then, he was very good! I don't know all of the places Bill worked between 1973 and 1981, but Greg Williamson said Bill worked briefly at KMCL-AM in McCall. I do know he also worked for KBRJ-AM after the station split from KBBK in 1978 and was purchased by Steve Sumner. He also worked briefly at KGEM and KJOT in the early 1980's as an air-personality on KGEM-AM, the #1 Country Station in Boise at the time. Later in the 1980's Bill worked as a "satellite network" country personality for Olympic Broadcasting, working out of KRPM AM & FM in Seattle/Tacoma.

In 1990, Bill soon showed up again on 92.3 FM. Straight Arrow and Jon Duane were hired to do mornings, and "Bill Bailey" became KIZN's new Program Director and Midday host! Bill stayed with KIZN for several years and soon started doing traffic reports using the air name "Major Gridlock" (shown here in an early 1990s KIZN magazine)! He then started his own company, Boise Metro Traffic, where he contracted to provide morning drive time, and evening drive time traffic reports to virtually every Boise Radio station! Along with a traffic report, listeners heard a live read of a 10-15 second commercial, which Bill sold to local advertisers to fund the service. Bill was soon making a



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Bill being interviewed by Lynn Hightower of KIVI Channel 6 at the Boise River Festival.

profit and was able to expand his traffic reports to pre-Boise State Games, the Boise River Festival, and other major events where there were radio listeners with traffic concerns.

As radio ownership “consolidation” happened in the mid-to-late 1990s, Bill’s company expanded and soon had offices and state of the art studios in a building at the corner of Eagle Road and Franklin Road, kitty-corner to R.C. Willy. During its peak, Boise Traffic was flying a “traffic plane” and Reporter Ron O’Brien was doing live traffic reports on KBOI-AM every morning! Bill also employed his daughter Crystal, who went by the air name “Claire Day.” She later was a morning personality on both “Mix-106” and “Lite 108.”

Another fun thing about Bill’s company was the use of multiple names for the same reporter on different stations. Bill was not only “Major Gridlock” on KIZN-FM, but he was also “David Terrill” on KIDO, Bill Bailey on KBOI, and probably went by one or two other names on several other stations! Among the other names Dave’s reporters used were “Gary Lane” “Harrison Hill” and “Kyle Safely” who was a real person with that actual name! At the celebration, many of Bill’s former traffic reporters were there and spoke fondly about working for and with Bill. They included Steve Shannon, Tommy Collins, Ron O’Brien, Greg Williamson, and others. Some of the other “fake” names they used on the air included “Hector Connector,” “U-Turn-Vern,” and “Gary Gowen.”

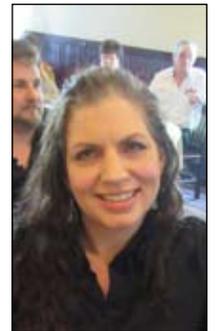
As Boise’s major radio groups sold off their properties in the 2000’s and 2010s, the new owners wanted to start their own traffic departments and sell their own ads. Bill relocated his offices and studios to the first floor of the Journal Broadcast Building on Fairview next to KTVB. In addition to Journal’s 4 FM stations,

Boise Metro Traffic’s Reports were also airing on the 6 Citadel stations, who ended up purchasing the assets of Boise Traffic in the late 2000s. Former Boise Traffic employee Ron O’Brien went to work for Citadel (now Cumulus), and is still with KBOI doing both news and traffic, and Tommy Collins now assists Ron O’Brien doing traffic.

Bill was very active with rodeo and served on the Board of Directors of the Caldwell Night Rodeo, as well as being involved with the PBR in Las Vegas. During the celebration, many people spoke and gave warm and heartfelt tributes to Bill. Among them was former KGEM afternoon personality Danny Jensen, who worked with Bill at the first KIZN-FM when the station was broadcasting at 93.1 MHZ from “The Johnson House” at 10th and Franklin in downtown Boise. Danny and Bill did a two man morning show calling themselves “The Breakfast Flakes” and Bill also worked on the KIZN-AM (730 AM) doing high school sports. Also speaking were numerous friends and officials from the Caldwell Night Rodeo, and radio personalities Dave Arthur, Steve Shannon, Robin Scott, Jodi Sali, and KJ Mac. Bill’s Sales Manager and brother-in-law David Lower also spoke, and echoed what a great person Bill was to work for, and how “easy going,” he was with everyone.



Billboard award-winning Country DJ, Danny Jensen, was the other member of “The Breakfast Flakes” on KIZN.



Townsquare Media Traffic Reporter, Robin Scott, also worked at K-106 with her father, the late Brian Hunter.

All in all, it was a wonderful celebration, complete with lots of old photos, awards, and other radio and rodeo memorabilia. Thanks to Crystal and the family for putting on such a wonderful event to honor their Dad. After attending, there is no doubt that Bill Bailey was a wonderful father to his kids, a wonderful boss to his employees, and a great broadcaster and true professional in all he did. He will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.



Many current announcers worked for Bill doing Traffic, including (L-R) KQFC’s Steve Shannon, KTSY’s Dave Arthur, former K-106 Morning Announcer Kate McGwire (now with Ada County), Tommy Collins now doing Traffic at Cumulus and announcing for KQFC and former Cumulus and Peak Broadcasting Production Director Jodi Sali, now with Davies & Moore Advertising.



Bob Wiesenburger, legendary General Manager of KGEM-AM and KJOT-FM passed away May 9, 2017 at the age of 90 at an Assisted Living Center near Idaho Falls. We last heard that Bob had moved to Twin Falls, and that he was spending a great deal of time in jackpot, where he loved to gamble. A few years ago, we heard a rumor that Bob had passed away, but searches failed to produce any news of his passing. That was because Bob had not passed away, and was alive and living in Idaho Falls!

According to his obituary, Robert Conrad Weisenburger was born June 24, 1926, in the Community Hospital at Medford, Oregon, to Les and Elsie Weisenburger. Bob spent his youth in Medford, where he graduated from High School in 1944. He then enlisted in the U. S. Navy and served until 1946. Bob attended Utah State University in Logan before moving to Hood River, Oregon where he got into the collection business. He worked at the Hood River AM station before moving to Boise, where he became a salesman, sales manager, and soon General Manager of KGEM-AM. Bob took over from Dave Miles, who according to Member Bart Cronin, moved to Eugene, Oregon to put KATR on the air (now KSCR, one of the stations Don Morin manages) in June of 1962.

There is a story (which Bob confirmed) that early on in his role as KGEM's Manager, Bob fired everyone at the radio station and shut it down for the weekend. Apparently, Bob came in on Friday afternoon and everyone was getting ready to leave early for the weekend. The station was not billing much, and the ratings were not good either. So to make the point that this was not acceptable, Bob gathered all of the staff in front of the transmitter and had the announcer end the record he was playing and say "This is KGEM Boise signing off the air." He then instructed the announcer to shut off the transmitter, and join the rest of the staff to hear what Bob had to say to them. As the story goes, Bob said:

"I just had the DJ shut off the transmitter. It doesn't matter... we don't have any listeners anyway. If you're a salesman and are concerned about spots that are scheduled to run, don't be. There are not enough spots on the log to worry about...and any we do miss won't amount to much because our rates are too low. It is 3:30 on Friday afternoon and instead of working until 5:00 pm like everyone else, you folks want to leave early for the weekend. Well, you're going to get your wish, because as of right now you're all fired. That's right, everyone. I'm going to leave the station off the air until Monday morning, but I'll be here at 6:00 A.M. in case any of you want to come in and ask to get your job back. You better be prepared to tell me WHY I should hire you back, and at what salary, because what you've been making is probably too much, considering what we're billing right now. But if we can get things moving around here, we should be able to pay you what you were making, and maybe a little more once we increase the listenership and billing. If you don't want to work, and want things to stay the way they are now, don't bother coming back. There's no place for you here. Now everybody, get your stuff and get out. I going home and locking the doors in 15 minutes."

Well, needless to say that shook the staff to the core. Some did not show up on Monday and found other jobs. However, a fair number of people did come back to work on Monday, or contacted Bob over the weekend, and the station went back on the air with a "new attitude." That story sets the tone for how Bob ran things. During

the next 20+ years, KGEM was very profitable, especially after switching to fulltime country on Jan. 1, 1966. The station also had good ratings, and in 1972 was #1 in total listeners 12+ with a 19.1 share.

Bob was General Manager of KGEM and KJOT for many years retiring in the early 1990s. He was a past President of the Idaho State Broadcasters Association. In 1965, he married Mary Curran in Elko, Nevada. Mary passed away November 20, 1990. Bob's lifelong interests always were hunting, fishing, and, in later years, playing pool. He is survived by his children, Christine, Julie, Bruce, and Rebecca. No Services are planned, and fittingly, Bob will be buried by his wife, Mary, and his parents at the Cemetery in Star, Idaho.

Many great broadcasters owe their careers to Bob including Jerry Moore, T.J. Clark, Hal Denson, Bernice Hayes, Kristy Edmunds, John Henry Rue, Carla Tyler, and many others. I was hired away from KUUZ-FM in 1981 and worked for Bob for over two years, just before I filed for and got (through a merger of 2 other applications) a construction permit for a new FM station in Casper, Wyoming. I was on location in Casper for the first 6 years, out of the 11 years we owned the station.

Right before I left Boise, and during the time I was gone, a lot happened with Bob's career. First, KGEM Sales Manager, and longtime and friend of Bob, Jerry Moore, made a secret plane trip to Salt Lake City to ask Homer Peterson (Bob's boss), to remove Bob as General Manager and appoint him (Jerry) as GM. Well, needless to say, that did not go over so well when Homer called Bob and told him of Jerry's visit. Bob was waiting for Jerry at the airport and fired him immediately. Jerry was allowed to say goodbye to all us the next morning, as he cleared out his office....and I'll never forget the staff meeting Bob held that morning when he announced that Jerry was "no longer with the station." Jerry went into selling commercial real estate in Boise, but that didn't last long.

In 1984, about a year after I arrived in Wyoming, Jerry called me to tell me that he had been appointed General Manager of KGHL in Billings, and their co-owned FM station. It seems their longtime Billings Manager, Dick Elliott, had just bought KWHO AM & FM and changed the call letters to KLTQ stand for "Lite" FM, and was directly challenging George Hatch's KLCY "Classy" Adult Contemporary format. Meantime, things were not going that well back in Boise for Bob. T.J. Clark had taken over as Sales Manager but KGEM and KJOT were facing tough competition from the new KIZN "Continuous Country" format, which was #1 in the Boise Arbitron book their second year on the air. Plus as reported in the KQFC story, KBOI-FM switched formats to country on January 1, 1985. There were now 3 FM stations playing country music in Boise. Something had to give.

Meantime, Jerry was doing very well in Billings and became close to Homer Peterson, who was getting up in years, and wanted to retire and upon doing so, Jerry assumed his role as Manager of all of the George Hatch stations. The first thing he did was to install his friend John Rand from RAB (Radio Advertising Bureau) as KGEM's new General Manager. Bob was allowed to stay to keep his retirement and health insurance, and as reported earlier in the J-105 story, KJOT soon switched from Country to Album Rock, picking up the audience from the former Q-104 (KIDQ-FM). KGEM tried many things with their country format in the late 1980s but could never regain their audience lost to FM, so in the late 1980's their



KGEM Searchlight during a 1950s Parade in downtown Boise.

switched to an “original hits” satellite format, which actually did very well in the ratings, but was hard to sell due to having listeners that were mostly 55 plus.

George Hatch wanted to get out of the super-competitive Boise Market, so in the fall of 1987 KGEM and KJOT were sold to Viking Broadcasting. Bruce Johnson, the former President of RKO Radio was one of the owners and he brought in Ken Koch as Sales Manager. Jon Rand was let go after some legal problems resulting from an employee law suit, and to restore confidence to the staff and advertising community, Bob Wiesenberger was reinstated at KGEM and KJOT’s General Manager! George Hatch soon sold off most of their stations, and Jerry Moore then became the head of George Hatch’s Intermountain Radio Network, which was what he was doing the last time I saw him in the summer of 1989. Jerry passed away a few years later due to some severe heart problems.

I never saw Bob again after leaving KGEM/KJOT in 1983, but I was able to have lunch with Bruce Johnson and Ken Koch shortly after returning to Boise in late 1989 and being named General Manager of KHEZ-FM in early 1990. At that time, Bruce asked me what I thought of Bob Wiesenberger as a Manager. I told them that Bob was the best GM I had ever worked for...and also the worst...all at the same time. Bruce told me that was perhaps the most accurate description of Bob that he had ever heard. Ken agreed, and we all went on talk about all of the good things Bob did as manager, and what a pleasure it was to work with him when you had his support, which when you had it, was unconditional.



KGEM’s “Treasure Valley is Someplace Special” van. Traffic Director Jean Morgan and Art Gregory are in the Burt & Ernie costumes for an appearance at Summerwind Elementary School.

KJOT Sales Manager Art Gregory “salutes” the camera as salesman TJ Clark fits Art in the “Burt” costume to promote Sesame Street Live at the new Boise State Pavilion.



However, Bob would let you know when you did something he did not approve of... and many KGEM and KJOT employees recall getting called in to “R-C-W’s” office for a little “talk” and when you left, half of your ass was missing.

But he was just as tenacious at protecting you if he felt you were right, and all of us respected him, and it would be accurate to say – feared him. But if you did your job and were honest with Bob, KGEM and KJOT was a great place to work. We hope to get more information from Bob’s family including some photos of him, and it would be good to have a celebration of his life and radio career to honor him. If you have any stories, photos, or documents that would contribute to this, please email us hibf@Q.com.



Jack Sausman, former KBCI-TV Sales Manager passed away May 21, 2017, in Shavano Park, Texas at the age of 88. Jack was a native Tennessean and spent most of his life in the television industry, including four years at WJHL-TV in the “Tri-Cities” of Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol, Tennessee. Jack helped put the station on the air and was Art Director and later Production Manager.

He then moved to Chattanooga and helped put WTVC-TV on the air, where he served as Program Director, Account Executive, Local Sales Manager, General Sales Manager and finally Vice President and Board Member of the parent company Martin Theatres. It was from this prestigious background that Jack was hired by Eugene Television in 1976 to serve as Assistant Manager and Sales Manager of KBCI-TV Channel 2, in Boise.

Jack retired from TV in 1983 and opened up The Cataldo Press - a full service printing company. Jack was very active in the broadcast industry and the Boise community, and was a member of the Rocky Mountain Broadcasters Association, National Association of Television Programming Executives, and the Boise Advertising Federation. He belonged to St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, and was also Publicity Director for the Sequoia Council of The Boy Scouts of America and Rotary International. He was also a board member of the Sales & Marketing Execs Club, The Salvation Army Advisory Board, Idaho State Broadcasters Association, and Governor John Evans’ Task Force Committee on the Arts in Idaho. Jack was an active Shriner and served as Chairman of the El Korah

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KIVI and KNIN Studios as they appear today with their new signage

Shrine Circus. In fact, Jack was responsible for expanding the Shrine Circus to include Caldwell, Mountain Home, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls.

Member Larry Chase started his TV career at KBOI AM-FM-TV in 1969 and was there when Eugene Television bought KBCI-TV in 1976. Larry says that Jack was his first boss when he moved into sales at Channel 2, which was shortly after the new owners took over. Larry acknowledges that Jack was a controversial broadcaster from day one, and that some people did not appreciate his style. However, Larry says:

“I did respect his sales acumen. He is the person who changed how TV advertising was bought and sold in Boise and eventually all of Idaho. It was a supply and demand system that had to be monitored on a daily basis. Under Jack’s leadership, Eugene TV paid off their purchase of Channel 2 in less than two years.”

Larry moved on to KPVI-TV in Pocatello and was soon promoted to sister station KIVI Channel 6 in Boise, where he spent almost 14 years as Vice President and General Manager for Evening Post, who owned the station. Under Larry’s leadership, KIVI was always profitable and highly rated in local news. Larry is now happily retired from broadcasting but still does creative work and media placement for select clients. He is also a local actor, a story teller, and was the arranger and co-instructor of the recent Boise State University Osher Institute Course on the Golden Age of Radio.

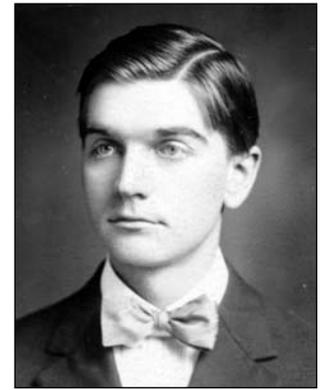
Our feature story in this issue of *As the Turntable Turns* celebrates some big anniversaries that take place in 2017. It’s hard to believe but broadcasting is 100 years old in Idaho, dating back to 1916 or early 1917.

According to the United States Commerce Department’s Radio Service Bulletin #26, Idaho’s first “special land station” was 7ZR licensed to Homer Rawson at the “Rawson Ranch, near Kuna, Idaho.” The state of Idaho was located in Radio District 7, so all 3 letter call-signs in Idaho started with that number (7). The middle letter was an X, Y, or a Z. The letter “X” indicated an experimental station; “Y” meant a trade or technical school; and the letter “Z” indicated it was a “special amateur” station. Idaho had 4 of these early “special land” stations starting with 7ZR in Kuna.

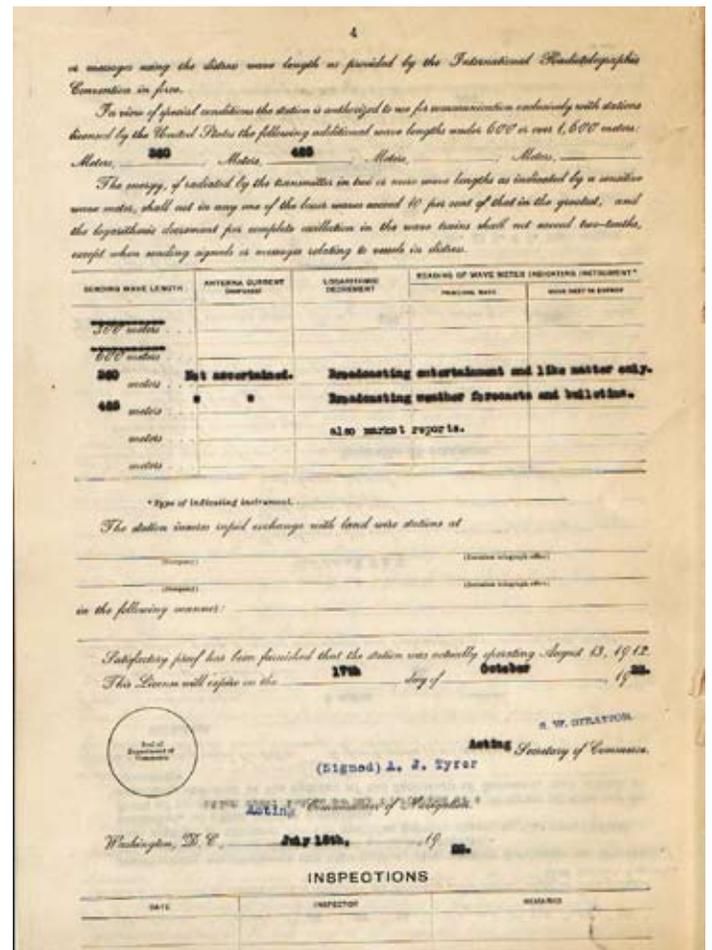
We know that Homer Rawson received his license sometime between July 1, 1916 and February 1, 1917, so radio is definitely 100 years old in Idaho! However, according to radio historian Thomas H. White, all amateur and commercial use of radio came to an abrupt halt on April 7, 1917 when, with the entrance of the United States into World War One, most private U.S. radio stations were ordered by the President to either shut down or be taken over by the government, and for the duration of the war it became illegal for private U.S. citizens to even have an operational radio transmitter or receiver!

After the war ended, licensing resumed, but Homer Rawson’s station did not return to the airwaves. However, 7YA in Boise (at Boise High School) was licensed in mid to late 1919 or early 1920, and 7YF in Burley (Burley High School) was licensed sometime in early 1920. Finally, Jack Woodworth’s 7ZM in Moscow was licensed in early 1921. These special amateur or technical or trade school stations were not legally allowed to broadcast music, entertainment, or market reports, which in the case of 7YA in Boise, the students of Boise High wanted to do! That spawned the birth of KFAU...so, as Paul Harvey used to say...stay turned to the rest of the story!

Chemistry Teacher Harry Redeker, the “Father” of Idaho Broadcasting



KFAU is 95 years old as of July 18, 1922. This was Boise’s first “limited commercial” station, and is the facility that was sold to Kiddo Phillips and Frank Hill in 1928, and subsequently became KIDO. In fact if you go to the FCC website and look the 630 KHZ frequency in Idaho, it says the station was first licensed “July 18, 1922.” What’s confusing is that 630 frequency now has the call letters “KFXD” and that the 580 frequency is now has the KIDO call letters. That’s because on August 12, 2002, Clear Channel Communications “swapped” call letters for these two heritage stations.



Actual first license for KFAU issued July 18, 1922

The FCC “keeps” all of the history of the former call letters with the current frequency. However, since virtually ALL AM radio stations have changed frequencies, we feel it’s fair to allow KIDO to retain its early history and let KFXD do the same. Both KIDO and KFXD changed power and frequencies many times before settling down on the facilities they have now. In the case of 580, KFXD was first licensed with 1,000 using the two self-supporting towers on February 26, 1947. They added the other two “guyed” towers and went to 5,000 watts both day and night (staying non-directional during day) on May 6, 1952.



Boise High Schools "Twin Towers" on the roof supporting KFAU's "T" type antenna. Note the black cloud in the sky above the building. That was caused by smoke and soot from coal furnaces in Boise's downtown and north end.

Meanwhile, KIDO was making a move of their own and changed frequencies from 1380 with 2,500 watts during the day and 1,000 watts at night (non directional) to 630 KHZ with 5,000 watts 24 hours day (using separate patterns for day and night). They made the move to 630 in March of 1951. While moving from 2500 to 5,000 watts seems like a big jump, KFAU was at one point in time transmitting with 4,000 watts during the day in 1927! This was one of the reasons the school district wanted to sell the station...it was costing too much for transmitter tubes!

According to Harry Redeker's historical records, which we were graciously sent by his grandson Steve Redeker, *The Idaho Statesman* was putting pressure on the Independent Boise School District to sell the station, as they felt it was unfair competition and a conflict of interest for the District to own it. At a future meeting and an "in depth" story, we'll share with you Harry's candid observations about what really led to sale of KFAU. How's that for a teaser?

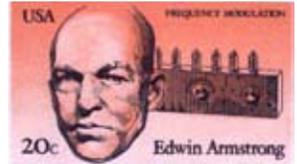
In addition, we'd like to announce our plans for 2018 to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the KIDO call letters, which were first used on Monday November 5, 1928. As was the case in 2008, we hope to rent the Crystal Ball Room of the old Hotel Boise and hold a special luncheon there, with as many "guests of honor" as we can find. For a radio station to have been on the air for 95 years...and have the same call letters for 90 of those years...that's something worth celebrating! Congratulations to KIDO!



KIDO switched to an all-news format 30 years ago in November of 1987. Member Barry Lewis was working at "Sunny 63" KIDO as an announcer playing Nostalgia/Big Music at the time of the switch! Pictured L-R are Member Bill Hatch, Kevin Ross, Dave Freeman, and Debby Courson, who now works for member station KTHI along with Barry Lewis!

KIDO-FM signs on 70 years ago. It's hard to believe that one radio station could have two major milestones in 2017, and really 3 if you count the new KIDO FM translator at 107.5, but KIDO indeed has another anniversary to celebrate, and one few people even know ever happened! In 1945 FM radio was given both a boost and a setback. The FCC moved the FM band to its current allocation spanning from 88.1 to 107.9 MHz. That opened the door for AM stations who wanted to extend their coverage and perhaps get in on the new "Hi-Fidelity" and static free experience that FM radio brought to the listener. The previous FM band, which had been developed by Edwin Howard Armstrong, was between 42-50 MHz.

The original patents for FM were owned by Armstrong, whose company made all of the receivers. David Sarnoff of RCA wanted in on the action, so he lobbied the FCC to change the band, making all of Sarnoff's receiver's useless. Armstrong refused to sell out or license his patents to Sarnoff, so RCA copied his idea and applied for patents claiming their circuits were "different" than Armstrong's. Armstrong sued, and the case was tied up in the courts for years. Armstrong became so discouraged that he took his own life by jumping out of the window of his high-rise apartment in 1954. Armstrong's widow kept after RCA, and eventually won every lawsuit her deceased husband had filed. In the end, Edwin Howard Armstrong is rightfully credited as the man who invented Frequency Modulation, and was honored in 1983 with his own postage stamp!



FM Station Opens Sunday

KIDO-FM, Boise's first FM station, will begin operation from the ninth floor of Hotel Boise, this Sunday at 3 p. m., it was announced today by Walter E. Wagstaff, general manager of KIDO. KIDO-FM will be heard on 102 megacycles or channel 271, depending on your make of radio.

An inaugural broadcast, to be heard from 3 to 4 p. m. Sunday, will feature brief explanations of FM (frequency modulation) and talks by Governor C. A. Robins and Mayor Westerman Whillock. Music will be provided by the Boise Junior college choir, Armenta Matthews, Pianist Louis Ventrilla, and a trio composed of Marie Cain Gorton, pianist, Stella Margaret Gorton, violinist, and Mrs. Walter Walleck, cellist. The broadcast will be heard on both KIDO and KIDO-FM. KIDO-FM will be on the air from 3 to 9 p. m. from Sunday through Saturday.

1947

In The Statesman

\$26,519,219 BUDGET SENT LEGISLATURE — State department's requests of \$26,519,219 in general fund appropriations for the next two years were placed before the legislature Thursday but there was every indication the figure was going to be trimmed by the lawmakers.

The estimate of state government requirements for the biennium beginning July 1 is about \$6,000,000 more than the \$20,570,879 general fund appropriations for the current two year period ending June 30.

The \$26,519,219 does not include any funds for teacher salary raises or for developing the state's educational system as proposed by the Peabody report.

'BEAT THE STORK' — AND POLICE CAR DOES — "Car 51, go to 1309 State street. Take a lady to the hospital. Beat the stork."

This was a Boise police radio call at 5:41 p.m. Thursday, and the speeding prowler car made it to the hospital in time. But Officer Alvin Boyd, who made the run, claimed to his fellow officers later: "I could see the stork flying above the car trying to make a landing."

Attendants at St. Luke's hospital reported later in the evening "A daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Silva, 1309 State street, at 9:50 p.m. Mother and daughter doing nicely."

KATHRYN RAYNE IS LEGION QUEEN — Kathryn Rayne, 19-year-old Boise Junior



college coed, has been named by Hollywood make-up Artist Perc Westmore as

queen of the Idaho American Legion for 1947.

By her selection, Miss Rayne will reign over the Idaho and Western American Legion ski championships March 29-30 at Sun Valley, Cmdr. William F. Galloway announced.

Miss Rayne is a freshman at the Boise Junior college, and the daughter of Legionnaire and Mrs. G. L. Rayne, Boise.

Second place went to Lorraine Manwaring of Blackfoot. Lois Bell, Coeur d'Alene, won third place. Bernice Cain of Payette was named fourth place winner.

BOISE'S FIRST AIRING OF FM TO BE BROADCAST OVER KIDO-FM TODAY —



The first regularly-scheduled programs to be broadcast by a Boise FM radio station will be heard over KIDO-FM beginning this afternoon at three o'clock, KIDO manager Walter E. Wagstaff announced Saturday.

The FM (for frequency modulation) station is located on the ninth floor of the Hotel Boise and the station's antenna has been installed on the hotel's roof.

Frequency modulation broadcasts, said Wagstaff, are different from ordinary radio broadcasts in that they permit the listener to hear everything as it actually sounds at the point of origination.

Wagstaff said frequency modulation, broadcast on a high frequency of 102.1 megacycles or channel 271, eliminates all static, and prevents distortion of reception by other stations near the broadcast frequency.

early FM stations include KSEI-FM in Pocatello, KTFI-FM in Twin Falls, KPST-FM in Preston, and KRXX-FM in Rexburg. All of them were financially unsuccessful and went off the air in the mid 1950s. In fact the Twin Falls transmitter from KTFI was later sold to Jim Gabbert who put KPEN on the air in San Francisco, later changing the call letters to KIOI and becoming the legendary "K-101" FM. Jim told me in 2008 this email, "When we put KPEN (Now K-101) on the air the only FM transmitter we could find was at KTFI in Twin Falls. Florence Gardner was the owner and she had shut the FM down."

It is thus ironic that the main FM tower currently being used on Deer Point, owned by Member John Runkle, is the former Mount Sutro tower from San Francisco! My book entitled "KIDO Boise' First Radio Station" has an entire chapter on the first KIDO-FM, including program schedules and the memo Station Manager Walter Wagstaff issued explaining to the staff "What FM is!" KIDO-FM signed on January 10, 1947...70 years ago. Congratulations KIDO!

KDSH signed on the air May 1, 1947! Right behind KIDO-FM, there was another group of broadcasters that put a new station on the air, and this group involved some BIG players! Mayor H. Westerman Whillock is listed as being one of the speakers for KIDO-FM's sign on January 12, 1947. KDSH was a new station on 950 KHZ and was originally just 1,000 watts both day and night. However, once on the air, they immediately filed for 5,000 watts day and night. The meant adding a new tower to two existing ones which were located just off Eagle Road, where St Luke's Meridian Hospital is now located.



(L-R) Saul Haas, Wes Whillock, Gov. C.A. Robins and Jim Johntz.

However, there was not enough room on the property to add a 3rd tower, so KBOI asked Ada County for permission, and got it, to place a tunnel under the Eagle Road that carried the transmission lines to the 3rd tower. Engineer Bill Frahm of Member Cumulus Media, the current owners of KBOI, said that in order to widen Eagle Road, the Highway Department contacted KBOI and asked for permission to remove the culvert! May 1st was a Thursday,

continued on page 16

In January of 1947, 70 years ago, KIDO put Boise's first radio station on the air at 102.1 MHZ. As you will read in the two previous newspaper articles, the antenna was on top of the Hotel Boise, then one of the tallest buildings in Boise. KFXD quickly followed putting an FM station on from Nampa with the antenna mounted on the "mast" of the North East self-supporting tower located on the "south hill" at the corner of Amity and Meridian Roads. Other



and Westerman Whillock appeared at the opening ceremonies for KDSH's sign on and then immediately resigned as Mayor. The plans for KDSH were started in 1944 and originally asked for 1,000 watts using a directional antenna on 1030 kc. That was amended to 600 kc, and then to 950. Originally the owner of KDSH was listed as Queen City Broadcasting, which was Saul Haas and his wife "Dee" hence the call letters K-D-S-H. But Saul Haas owned KIRO-AM in Seattle and wanted to apply for a Television station.

One of his arguments was that he was a "local" owner with no outside interests. But by owning KDSH, Haas did have outside interests...so he immediately transferred his shares to local investors and KDSH was "sold" to Boise Valley Broadcasters within a couple of months of sign-on. One of the station's first needs was a new Chief Engineer to build the 5KW facility.

The Foundation's first member, the late James A. Johntz Jr., who had just put KIDO-FM on the air and was chief engineer there, was picked for the job, and moved his family into the house that was located at the transmitter site on Eagle Road. Member Andy Johntz (James Andrew Johntz III) was a young boy at the time and says it was fun growing up in that house, as there was lots to see there! Jimmy reports the 5KW transmitter was a used rig from KGA in Spokane, where Member Don Morin of Cumulus Media was GM prior to coming to Boise in 2008. Apparently the transmitter was so big, they had to tear out part of the wall to install it inside the house.

That old 5,000 watt transmitter served KBOI for 21 years from 1947 until KBOI moved to 670 KHZ and 50,000 watts on June 25, 1968. We'll be celebrating what we are going to call "50 at 50" next June, and Don Morin has indicated that Paul J. Schneider signed another two-year contract to co-host the Morning Show on KBOI, so Paul will be there to celebrate with us!

Some of KBOI's biggest names were there for the May 1, 1947 sign-on, including Bill Gratton (father of Member Dennis Gratton) and Dar Dodds (father of Member Shanna Jones and father-in-law of her husband Brent Jones). Another big aspect of KDSH's sign-on was bringing a 4th Network to Boise. In May of 1947, Boise was served by NBC (KIDO), ABC (KGEM), and Mutual (KFXD). CBS, or the "Columbia" Broadcasting System was only available at night on KSL from Salt Lake City. One of the shareholders in KDSH was Earl Glade Jr. (the man who hired members Vee Cederstrom and Marty Holtman). Earl was LDS (Mormon) and

had close ties to KSL, which his father, Earl Glade Sr. ran from 1925-1939. Earl also organized and was the first president of the Idaho State Broadcasters Association. He was so deeply involved in industry and community activities, that when he left Boise, he had to write 13 letters of resignation. In 1966 Earl left to take a position as director of broadcast services at Brigham Young University, to launch KBYU-TV and further develop the campus radio station. He worked there until his retirement in 1976, and also taught communications and broadcasting classes.

We also covered a lot of KDSH's early history at our April 28th Meeting where we played a number of old KDSH audio clips, most of which were recorded on "E-T's" (Electrical Transcriptions). These old records were discovered and saved by Bill Frahm and Casey Keating after finding them in the basement of KBOI in the early 1970s. KDSH only lasted 7 years, and the call letters were changed to KBOI in 1954 to match the television call letters which went into effect when channel 2 signed on the air November 26, 1953. So out of the past 70 years, the call letters KBOI have been in effect for 63 years!

In 2022, we'll help KBOI Radio Celebrate 75 years on the air. Time flies when you are having fun, and speaking for everyone who worked at KBOI, I sure had fun when I worked there. In fact, it is a testimony to the many great people who have been associated with KBOI over the years, especially Member Charles Wilson who owned KBOI from 1975 until 1997, that KBOI is still the top (or one of the top) rated stations in Boise...AM or FM. You have to have a good foundation to have lasted that long, and have a lot of caring people who took a little 1,000 watt station to a 50,000 watt giant. Happy 70th Birthday KBOI!

KCID also celebrates 70 years in 2017! And it is amazing to see how many people started their careers at this little station! KCID signed on the air April 17, 1947 with 250 watts. The owners were shareholders of the *Caldwell News Tribune*, or were people who worked there. Among them was Clair Hull, whose daughter Nikki, would go on to marry Duane Wolfe. The transmitter was located at the current site on Highway 20/26 just behind Lakey's Diner. The cross street is even called KCID Road! The studios were located there too for a time, but in 1953 the transmitter building was remodeled into a house, and the studios were moved downtown next to the Dakan Funeral Chapel. Later, the studios were moved to the News Tribune Building on Main Street, and in 1960, KCID moved to "the Corner Where the World Turns" on Cleveland Boulevard. They also increased daytime power to 1,000 watts.

Early on the station was a pioneer in automation, using a Schafer 600 "brain" with four Ampex 351 reel-to-reel music decks and "Carousel" rotating tape-cartridge machine for commercials and IDs. A "time Machine" consisting of two large-format tape cartridge players advanced itself every minute and played the correct time by alternating the "even" and "odd" minutes back and forth! Member Jack Link was one of the first KCID announcers, starting at the station during summer break from College at the Washington State University, shortly after they signed on the air. After college graduation, Jack worked at KCID full-time before joining KIDO in 1951.



Member Jack Link started his commercial broadcast career at KCID in 1947.

Other big names that worked at KCID include Member Dick McGarvin, who worked there in the late 1950s while still in High School. Larry Lujack from WLS Chicago fame worked at KCID too, and later on KGEM. Others who started their careers at KCID, or worked there for a time, include Members Dan Wilmot, David Hagen, and Jerry Rohnert. Don Campbell also worked for KCID before being hired by Wayne Cornils at KFXD.

Most of these folks were “discovered” by Duane Wolfe, who seemed to have an “ear” for great radio voices. Whenever he heard one, he’d ask them to come to the studio and record a demo tape. This was a regular occurrence, as KCID always seemed to be “looking” for new talent to replace the person who had just moved “up” to a bigger station. So in that regard, KCID was one of Idaho’s most important stations in developing new talent. Duane Wolfe moved into the car business in the late 1960s, and Assistant Manager Dale Peterson became Manager.



KCID Live Remote – Top center standing is Carl Follick, owner Dale Peterson is below



In 1983 KCID-FM was added (now Member station 107.1 K-Hits), and 10 years later, in 1993, Duane Wolfe suddenly passed away. Dale already held a small interest in KCID and was able to purchase the rest of the shares from Wolfe family, becoming the sole owner of KCID. In 1996, Dale sold KCID AM and FM to American General Media (AGM) who had recently bought KGEM and KJOT and also just acquired KQXR in Payette (“Pirate Radio”). KCID-AM was then sold to a local group, but that didn’t work out, so KCID-AM

went back to the seller and was soon moved Boise. AGM then sold out to Journal Broadcast Group, who operated KCID over the next 12 years with a variety of formats, including oldies and nostalgia. In the end, operating AM stations was just not in their heart, and Journal Broadcast Group sold both KGEM-AM and KCID to Salt & Light Radio in September of 2009.

Under Salt and Light, KCID’s format was changed to Spanish language listener-supported Catholic Radio. 70 years later, KCID is still on the air and still using the same 365 foot tower located on KCID Road! Congratulations to KCID for 7 decades on the air. The “corner where the world turns” may be a Payday Loan office now, but 1490 AM is still on the air!



KCID grand opening event



The Corner Where the World Turns in the 1980s

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KCID AM & FM		Caldwell-Nampa Radio		107 STEREO COUNTRY MUSIC	
COMMISSIONABLE		Either Station or x 2 For Both		RATE #14 JULY 1, 1992	
WITHIN 30 DAYS		1 MINUTE		30 SECOND	
Base	18			15	
60	16			13	
120	14			11	
10 OR MORE SAME DAY		1 MINUTE		30 SECOND	
		16		13	
ANNUAL CONTRACTS		1 MINUTE		30 SECOND	
360	18			13	
720	15			12	
1000	13			10	
PRESENTED BY _____					
Twin Cities Broadcasting Co. • P.O. Box 1175 • Caldwell, Idaho 83606 Telephone 208-459-3606 • FAX 208-454-1490					

KBSU-FM is 40 years old! It's hard to believe, but KBSU is 40... which also means most of the founders are 60 plus! Sad but true, and while I was not a founder of KBSU, two good friends of mine were. In 1974 and 1975 I met Gary McCabe and Rich Landucci while I was program Director of KYME. Gary had an interest in starting a student FM station at what was then Boise State College. I attended "BSC" in 1970, 1971, and part of 1972 as a "Speech" major. Then when Speech Department became the Department of Communication in the fall of 1971, I became a Communication major.

Along with being a full time student, I worked for KBOI AM & FM, both part time, and full time (40+ hours). My boss was Member Marty Holtman, and my co-workers were Members Larry Chase and Dan Wilmot! During my last month or so at KBOI, Member Norm Gunning was hired as a Reporter in the News Department! While I was a student at Boise State College, I did some volunteer work for KBSC, which was the carrier current student station located upstairs in the old "Subal Theatre" in what is now the Department of Communication Building. Scott Beltz, who went on to work for KYME after they switched to oldies in 1971, was KBSC's Station Manager during the short time I worked there.

Among the other hand-me-down equipment, the station had a Gates Yard control board, just like the one I purchased from Lee Schafer at KSPD when Lee retired it from service in the mid-1990s! This was part of the equipment that was put in storage that got Gary McCabe thinking about starting a student radio station! Well as you will read, Gary acted on his plan, and during the time he worked for me at KYME, we had extensive conversations about what it "took" to put a new station on the air. Prior to being PD at KYME, I'd been the Operations Director at KBXL-FM in 1972, all of 1973, and part of 1974.

During that time Member John Runkle was promoted from Chief Engineer to General Manager of KBXL, and I got to witness, and even help, construct the new building and tower that would accommodate the new AEL FM Transmitter and Jampro Antenna that would soon be transmitting KBXL-FM at 94.1 MHZ from Deer Point in the fall of 1973. KBBK would soon follow in the spring of 1974, and used that same building and small tower, which was installed prior to the former Mount Sutro tower being moved to Boise and reconstructed on Deer Point. For a time KFXD-FM's antenna was mounted on the back side of the KBXL KBBK tower, but was later moved to the lower leg of the larger Mount Sutro tower.

Thus, when I moved to KYME as Program Director in early 1974, I knew how complicated it was to put a new station on the air, just from the technical standpoint and FCC approval process alone. KBSU would also need studios and would be "starting from scratch." But Gary McCabe did not give up! And thus I was surprised and delighted to be asked to address the first KBSU Staff prior to sign-on in January of 1977. A lot had happened in my career, and in Boise radio, since Gary had first talked with me in 1974. I left KYME in the late fall of 1975 and landed at KIDO as an announcer. In late 1976, I was hired away by Fred Novak to help start KUUZ (KWZ), slated to go on the air in late 1976.

(L-R) Member Jim Zamzow, Elli Ellis, Member Katie Alters on KBSX during Pledge Drive Week in the mid-2000's.

What I told the KBSU staff was that their role was to be "different" than commercial a radio station, which answered to the merchant on main street. KBSU's role was to bring music and programming that was not currently being heard on the airwaves in Boise, and that to "sound like" or compete with commercial radio was not their goal...in fact, their goal was just the opposite of that! They got the message and KBSU was an immediate "hit" with listeners. Power was raised, and the transmitter and tower were relocated to Table Rock a few years later, but the station struggled financially.

Finally in the late 1980's President John Kiser exercised his role as the person representing the "owner" of the station, which was the Idaho State Board of Education, and replaced the student management with Jim Paluzzi, a full-time paid manager who worked for the University. KBSU's power was increased and the antenna was moved to Deer Point. A few years later, KBSX-FM at 91.5 MHZ was added to become a full-time NPR (National Public Radio) Affiliate and KBSU became a full-time Classical Music station except for night and weekends, when the station's "Specialty" Programming continued with the original hosts such as Arthur Ballinger, Linda Laz, and Victor Pacania. Only now, the station transmitted from Deer Point and at increased power. Interestingly, KBSX still transmits only in monaural, while KBSU is in full stereo at 90.3 MHZ.

The Foundation has done several meetings involving the KBSU. The first was in March of 2007 when we hosted a "30-Year Reunion Night" at an on-campus meeting hall at Boise State University which was located next to the former studios in the Simplot-Micron Building. Among the 25 to 30 people showing up was Gary McCabe who wrote the article below for Issue #8 of *As the Turntable Turns*, which was published in September 2007. Boise State held a big celebration party that fall at the Bandshell in Julia Davis Park where several of the photos used on the following pages were taken.

Then in February of last year, then Acting-General-Manager Peter Morrill spoke at our February 26th Foundation Luncheon at the Parkcenter Smoky Mountain Pizza and then conducted a tour of the new Boise State Public Radio facilities located nearby at the Yankee Research Center. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed Peter's excellent talk. We are hoping to do an update article on what KBSU and Boise State Public Radio is doing after 40 years, and we'll keep you posted on that. In the meantime, here is Gary McCabe's article from Issue #8 with a few small changes to update it to be correct 10 years later!



The Beginning of KBSU

by Gary McCabe

Founder and First General Manager of KBSU-FM

ALTERNATIVE RADIO

KBSU

FM • STEREO 91.3



Gary McCabe and Dave Schwartz at KBSU in 1977

Recently I was asked to write this article about the origins of BSU radio. This event included what went on just prior to KBSU's debut and what happened shortly after that. Like a lot of kids in high school. I thought the DJ's in radio were cool, so that's where I wanted to be. Of course you don't need a college degree for the job, especially back in the 70's, but I didn't know that. So I enrolled at BSU in the fall of 1973 majoring in Communication. Obviously, I was not the only radio geek around. In fact it was at BSU that I met now History of Idaho Broadcasting Foundation member John Adamson. John was a senior at the time, and he told me about some old broadcasting equipment located in the Vo-tech building. At one time there was a closed circuit radio station on campus and apparently that's where the equipment originated. That old equipment is what gave me the idea about a campus radio station.

I had no idea how to get started or how to obtain a license from the FCC. I also had no practical experience in broadcasting. But over the course of the next four and a half years, I managed to get what I needed with a lot of help from obliging folks along the way. I was fortunate to land a job working for now History of Idaho Broadcasting Foundation President Art Gregory at KYME radio. Art, who was the Program Director of KYME, had a pretty innovative radio station at the time, and was nice enough to let me work there as a part time board-operator. I was just spinning records and playing tape cartridges, and my voice was not on the air, but at least I did get to learn about the business. I also knew the University of Idaho had a student-run station so I visited a friend going to school there and managed to get a tour and talk with station personnel. It wasn't until I met a woman who was a counselor at an out-of-state high school that I finally figured out what would be necessary to obtain a radio station license. Her school actually had a low-power FM station, and she had been instrumental in getting it on the air. This is where I got the name of an attorney familiar with FCC rules & regulations. I knew this attorney would be necessary to move forward with my idea; and of course, I also knew money would be required.

At the time, I did not know much about student government and really did not know about lobbying for my cause. Fortunately, I had some professors in the Communication Department that pointed me in the right direction, namely, the late Richard Boylan,

Dick Gephardt and others. I went before the student senate made my case and got some money to retain the lawyer. I can tell you the process behind doing this, the government forms and time involved is laborious. It was a good thing I started when I was a freshman.

During the years from when I was a Freshman until I became a Senior, most of the work on getting the station was devoted to research and correspondence with the lawyer in Washington DC, and unfortunately, a small college radio station was not exactly his first priority. I also wrote bylaws for a student broadcasting association and set up something called the Broadcast Board. Basically the Broadcast Board was the selection committee for station management and the ultimate governing body. I figured the station manager would have to answer to somebody. I got to be the first Chairman of the Board, and I think we also had four students and two professors as board members.

I knew as sign-on time approached the station would need a staff, so I posted flyers asking anyone who would be interested in being part of a college radio station to attend a meeting. This is where I met some of the station's future staff. This is also where I met people who would become the heart and soul of KBSU; people like Rob Campbell, Carl Scheider, and Bob Lilly.

I returned to the student senate to ask for money for equipment. They granted me \$5000.00. With that money, we purchased a control board, turntables, microphones and a couple of reel-to-reels tape recorder/players. We also bought a ten watt transmitter. The Communication Department granted us a couple rooms in an old house at the west end of University Drive. Doctor Richard Bolyan also had his office in that house; and he rightly predicted that we would eventually take over the whole place, which we did

continued on page 20



Former KGEM Studioette acquired by Art Gregory in the early 1980s

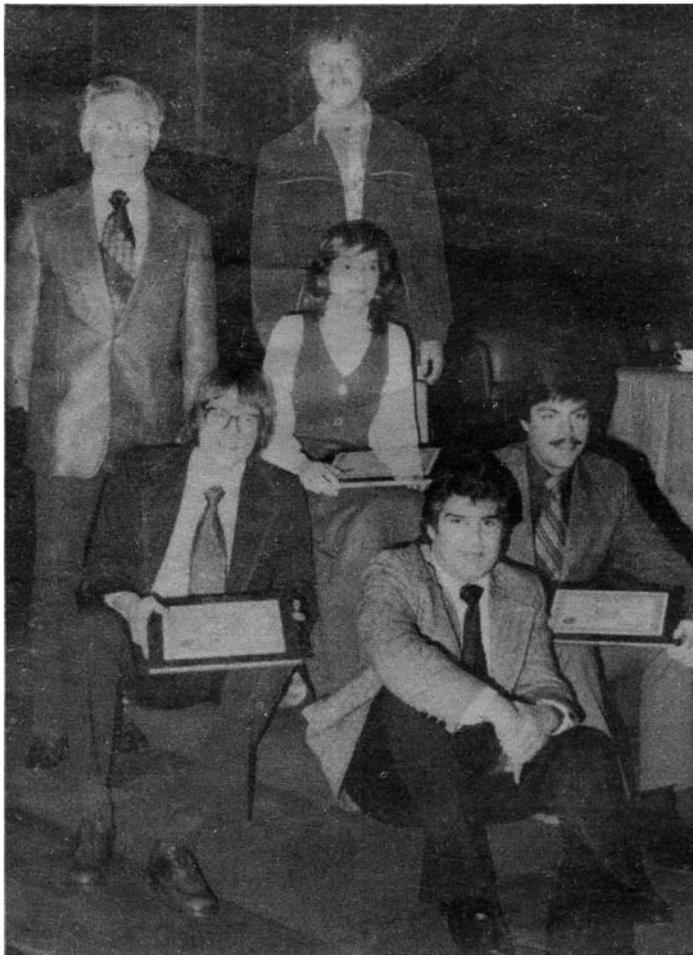
Member David Ferdinand at the controls of KBJC's Gates Studioette



shortly thereafter! We put up egg cartons on the walls as our “sound barriers” and started practicing for the day the station would actually go on the air. We literally had people come in and record entire shifts on reel-to-reel tape to simulate a live broadcast.

During this time, there were many discussions about call letters. There were some people who wanted the station call letters to be something other than KBSU. But I thought at the time the calls should carry the University's name; and since there was no other institution using those call letters, KBSU was born.

Discussions also abounded on where we ought to put our humble 10-watt transmitter. A couple of us wanted it close to the University - but on the highest ground possible. We first tried to put it on top of what is now the US Bank building downtown; but the building's owner said no. There were considerations for a few “bench” locations, but in the end KBSU's first transmitter location was positioned “high atop” the student union building.



President John Barnes (standing) honors Gary McCabe in 1977 for starting KBSU. Seated in front is the late Fred Norman.



Then-current employees at KBSU 30th Anniversary Concert in 2007 included (pictured left to right): PD Elli Ellis, Rick Dory and Chief Engineer Tom Taylor, Arthur Ballinger and Linda Laz, and Carl Scheider.

KBSU officially went on the air in January of 1977, even though “unofficially” the station debuted in December of 1976. I remember hearing “Jesus Christ Superstar” on my folk's stereo on Christmas Eve - coming straight from our humble transmitter. I thought we had been given the green light from the FCC when in fact we had not. So after a short hiatus from the “air” the station went live in January. The first staff consisted of me, General Manager; Rich Landucci (aka Rich Donahue), Program Director; the late Rob Campbell, Music Director; Dave Schwartz, Operations Manager; Kevin Felts, News Director, and Walter Shook, Engineer. All these people were instrumental in organizing the music, news, technical work and getting staff to run the station. Some of the people who started at the station that first year are still in the broadcasting business today. People like Linda Laz, Arthur Ballinger, Teri Tate, Carl Scheider, Bob Lilly, and up until his death, the late Victor Pacania. And this is just a partial list! There were many other folks who were instrumental in getting KBSU off the ground during that first year of operation as well, including Marla Leggett, Chris Williams and Rockwell Smith, just to name a few. In regards to programming, KBSU was totally “free form.” The station would change formats every 4 hours, depending on who was on the air. I could go on endlessly telling stories about the people, the energy and the tons of fun we had in that little old house on University Drive. Just let it be said that everybody got to play the music they liked and the station was totally different from anything that previously existed in this valley. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I know I speak for everyone that worked there when I say we all loved KBSU.

Gary McCabe was given the prestigious “Presidents Award” in 1977 by then-BSU President John Barnes for the establishment of KBSU radio. Gary McCabe's radio career spanned 30 years, and in addition to working for me at KYME (and of course KBSU-FM), Gary also worked at KIDO-AM, KFXD-AM, KBBK-FM (“Magic 92”), KFXD-FM (“KF-95”), KIYS-FM (“KISS FM”), and was the afternoon host at KRVB-FM (94.9 “The River”) for many years, primarily when it was owed by Journal Broadcast Group.



KBSU Founder Gary McCabe (center) at February 2016 Tour of KBSU's new studios.