

January, 2015



TRHoF

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NEWSLETTER

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Ladies and Gentlemen, your President

OFF MIC

by Gary Beaty



As we say goodbye to 2014, let's pause to remember all those we lost this past year...the most recent being Teddy Bart just a few days ago. I always thought of Teddy as one of the best interviewers who sat behind a mic: He had a way of interviewing a guest without becoming the story himself. He will be missed.

Looking ahead, We have a great inductee group for our annual ceremony this May. And, we (the

board) will have some exciting news to announce concerning our Legendary Station of the Year following our upcoming meeting on January 17th.

There are some challenges and issues that we will have to address as we move through the coming months, and please, if there any concerns that you might have, please let me, or any of our board members hear from you.

I wish you, and our organization, the very best throughout the coming year!!

As always,

Keep Calm...
Gary

You Look Simply Mahvelous!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

- Bryan Barrett
- Kenny Bosak
- John Bouwhuis
- Yvonne K Chapman
- Carlos Clemente
- Billy Goodman
- Happy Huddleston
- Matt Lane
- MJ Lucas
- Jeff Lyman
- Lou Meux-Solomon
- Johnny Shaw
- Vince Tapler



- Melissa Wagner
- Coleman Walker
- Jerry Wilson
- James E. "Super" Wolfe
- Jerry Zimmer

We will miss this consummate professional:

INDUCTEE TEDDY BART

By Lee Dorman

We lost a broadcasting treasure, and I lost a dear friend, when **Teddy Bart** passed away on December 20, 2014. In a career that spanned more than half a century, Teddy climbed to the top of a number of broadcast mountains in both radio and television. Few accomplished more than he did, or garnered more respect. In words that are overused but very true, he will be greatly missed.

I have known Teddy for nearly sixty years. Both being Jewish, I remember seeing him for the first time when I was a teenager and he was a lounge singer in Printers Alley. He brought his mother to the High Holy Days services at the West End Synagogue. Then he was singing on the WSM-AM Waking Crew, and the Noon Show, on WSM television, when I became the first announcer at WDCN-TV (Nashville Public TV), whose studios were in the Channel Four building, in 1962. A few years later I got my first job in radio as a WKDA "Good Guy," and he was working at WSM, doing an afternoon talk show with **Larry Munson**...then becoming host of the Noon Show on Channel Four. We were only acquaintances at that time, not yet friends, but would see each other from time to time. His career continued upward, becoming an important part of the WSM (later WSMV) TV on-air family, in news and election coverage as well as entertainment). He gained not only popularity on television, but also credibility, as he earned acclaim for his ability and talent as an interviewer on both radio and TV.

In the late 1970's, he and his wife, Jana, bought Nashville's Jewish newspaper, the Observer, and published it for several years. In 1980, I and several friends approached him about selling it to us, and he did. As a result of that transaction, we became closer friends, and remained that way until his death.

In 1982, I became General Manager at WLAC, and he was hosting a talk show on the station. Until I left



(continued from Page One)

Teddy Bart

several years later, we worked together and enjoyed a great partnership. It was the only time we actually worked together. A few years later we tried to buy a radio station but it did not work out. Nevertheless, he would continually tell me, for the next twenty years, to keep him in mind if I found a deal that I thought he would also be interested in.

Teddy's greatest talent was his ability to use his intelligence and knowledge to articulate questions that pulled the best, and worst, out of those persons he was questioning...on both radio and television. He was acknowledged by many as the best interviewer Nashville ever had.

His resume in that regard is second to none: The Waking Crew, the Noon Show, WLAC, Teddy Bart's Roundtable...he was truly "alone at the top" for more than thirty years on Nashville radio and television. And when that part of his career ended, he continued with his interest in what many call "the supernatural," by hosting his "Beyond Reason" program, streaming it on the Internet. Over the years, he did it all. Radio program and talk show host, newsman on radio and news anchor on TV, and oh, I almost forgot---author of several books, both fiction and non-fiction.

When I gathered a group of friends four years ago to create what would become the "Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame," Teddy was one of the first people I asked to join me. And from the beginning as a member of our Board, to his being our Emcee for the Inaugural Banquet and Induction Ceremony, to his own induction as a member of the Hall, he was there by my side.

Yes, I will miss him, as will several hundred thousand Middle Tennesseans who, over the years, listened to him....watched him....and loved him, as I did.

Coincidentally, one of the greatest compliments I ever received (and it happened more than once) came just a few weeks ago. At the checkout line in the grocery store, the clerk looked at me for more than a few seconds, then said, "I have to ask you a question because you look so familiar. Are you that man on television? But I'm embarrassed because I can't think of your name."

Having been told before we resembled one another, I said "Do you mean Teddy Bart?"

She said, "That's it! Are you?"

"No," I said. "But I'm proud to say he's my friend!"

(Lee Dorman is an author, on-air personality, media entrepreneur, and the primary organizer and first president of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.)

Paul Randall Dickerson public service contribution:

TN's SEASON TO REMEMBER

By Melissa McDonald

Paul Randall Dickerson just completed his third year as the reader of the victim names at the state's annual memorial for victims of homicide. Here's a picture of Dickerson at Tennessee Season to Remember, which occurred on December 4 at First Baptist Church in Nashville.



The event is coordinated each year by the state's criminal justice agencies. Several hundred people attend each year. **Governor Haslam** speaks each year, and ac-



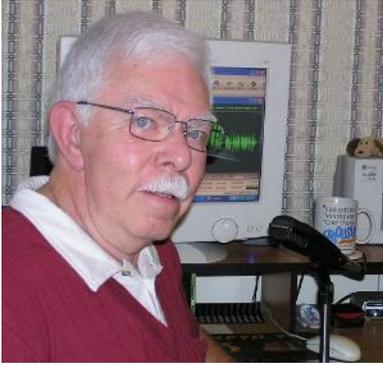
tually greets every person who comes to hang an ornament in memory of his/her loved one. The ornaments are hung on Memory Wreaths, which are then displayed in the State Capitol throughout the holiday season.



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I just did a road trip from Nashville down to Miami and return. The car radio was on less than 60 minutes of the 30 hours on the road. I'm an AM kind of guy. Never have listened much to FM in the car. I learned long ago that FM listening on road trips is an exercise in futility. More often than not, about the time you find something that might

be listenable, it starts to fade out. AM powerhouse stations aren't as prone to do that. But...I digress.

About half of that listening hour was spent getting traffic reports from WSB in Atlanta. Anyone who has ever driven through Atlanta is probably aware that if you don't know what to expect as you head into, through, and out of the city, you'll probably wish you'd checked things out ahead of time...and maybe even changed your route.

I spent the rest of my listening time surfing the dial to see if there was anything I wanted (needed) to hear.

There wasn't.

Today's radio is, for the most part, crap. Both AM and FM. There are exceptions...but they're in the minority. Big conglomerates that have sucked up thousands of once-independent stations have, for the most part, totally trashed them in one way or another.

Let's take program content. Talk (political or sports)...pure barf. This stuff gets old in a hurry.

News? What news? Two minutes that I'm told are 'fair and balanced' is about all I can find anymore. Newscasts, what few there are, have been rendered useless...they never conform to the who, what, where, when, why and how formula we all learned very early in our careers...and when they're over, we know less than we did when they begin. I should also mention here that the content tends to be almost as old as newspaper copy.

Commercials...abysmal. Boring, uncreative, just plain CRAP...and usually about 10 in a row. That's "programming"?

Traffic reports? Cryptic...and if you aren't a local, or don't know the area highway system fairly well, they're probably going to be useless. Besides, the people who do them must have a hot poker stuck up their posterior...because they speak so rapidly that listeners are lucky to get every third word. What's the big hurry? Are we in that big a flap to get back to Rush, Sean, Laura, Rev. Gasbag, or some nondescript country singer that sounds like every other contemporary country singer?

Weather? The radio says..."It's going to be sunny all day..." (so why is the sky leaden and it's raining?) Automation and weather are a bad combination.

Religion.....instant barf! In the south you'll barf a LOT because the good book grandstanders are everywhere.

Music...what's music? Most of the time I can't find anything in the way of music fit to listen to on either AM or FM...and my tastes aren't that narrow.

Another beef...excessive audio processing...particularly on FM. Most stations' audio is so hyped and over-processed that it makes my skin crawl. Five minutes of exposure and I'm ready for the funny farm. Nothing sounds real. Human voices are so doctored that they might as well be synthesizer output.

I don't know who the people running radio stations think they're "serving"...but it isn't me or anyone that I know.

Some small market broadcasters are doing a good job of serving their local communities...and I tip my hat to them. As a rule, they're not programming for MY tastes...rather for

their local audience...and I commend them for that. What they do is really about the only remnant of what made radio great.

Oh...I almost forgot to mention Sirius/XM. My new car has it, but I like my own stuff a heck of a lot better than most of what's on the bird. Aside from that, the cost is insanely high. To heck with satellite radio....at least for me.

So what do I listen to?

Fortunately, I have a large collection of vinyl at home that I've dubbed over to CD and memory cards...and enjoy tremendously when driving. I tolerate inferior news, weather, and traffic reporting, and pretty much tune out everything else.

Decades ago, NBC provided some of the best long-form 'theater of the mind' listening ever with their national broadcasts of "Nightline" and "Monitor". That was REAL radio. NPR would do well to do an updated version...if they could keep it down to earth. Simply put, NPR tends to be too haughty.

I used to feel fulfilled when I traveled and listened to the radio. I got good solid information from interesting personalities, live announcers and newscasters. I heard a wide variety of listenable music...from classic country to elevator music to pop oldies to big band to classical. If there were localized traffic problems, the nearest station would know about them and tell me what was going on. Try to get that kind of info now in anything but the largest cities.

You might wonder if I can put a finger on what went wrong...and I'll have to target political meddling with the FCC. That's the root cause of the proliferation of stations that has wreaked havoc with profit margins industry-wide. There are simply too many licensed broadcast outlets...and that's been the case since sometime around 1970.

A fix? Let failing stations go dark and surrender the licenses (unless you think you need to run in the red to hang onto the sliver of spectrum you hold license to). Survival of the fittest ought to take care of at least some of the problems.

Getting back to the basics of live communication seems like another tactic worth trying.

The bottom line is that radio is really all about dedicated, talented people...and more importantly, what management will allow those people to do. As long as the answer is NOTHING CREATIVE...radio will continue to be crap.

Oh...and just so you don't get the impression that I'm all gloom and doom, please accept my wish for a Happy New Year!



Tom Bryant at CJOB in 1961

Happy New Year also rings a big...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WGNS

Local radio stations are still very much part of the business landscape in our smaller markets. TRHOF founding Board Member and broadcast veteran **Bart Walker** has assembled a really cool retrospect on his station WGNS/Murfreesboro's website. There's also an audio stream. [Check out the vintage photos here!](#)

Philosophical ruminations

RADIO Warm... TV Cool

By Paul Randall Dickerson

My broadcast engineer friend **Steve Rosenberg** makes the point that radio should have outlived its usefulness a long time ago, but refuses to go away.

The basic technology is closing on a century old. AM air quality was eclipsed by (no static at all) FM as a superior music broadcasting medium and then both might have been kicked to the curb by eight-tracks, cassettes, CDs and then satellite. Somehow, they weren't.

The "somehow" is the genius of radio. If you remember **Marshall McLuhan**, raise your hand. If you don't, suffice it to say McLuhan was a media professor and philosopher who identified different media as "warm" and "cool."

TV is a "cool" medium; it happens across the room and you watch it. Radio is a "warm" medium; it happens between your ears and you picture it. Radio is theater of the mind. Listeners make up their own pictures, whether it's the jock's intro of a hit or the natural sound behind the newscaster as he describes the demonstration or the celebration.

I hope the broadcasters and broadcast owners of today keep that strength in mind. It would be sad to tune in and hear dreary sameness and realize the theater is closed.

Recruit Your Radio Comrades! They'll get 6 months free!

NEW MEMBERS = BALANCE

One of our top goals is to recruit more members from East- and West-Tennessee to bring about a natural geographic balance state-wide of our HOF inductee classes and legendary stations. Actively recruiting new members from outside the middle Tennessee area is working, and having a positive effect.

We now have 303 voting Full Members in good standing, plus 28 Associate Members. It's a record, and it keeps building. Soon, you all will have access to our "Members-Only Pre-sale" of tickets to the 2015 Induction Ceremony and Banquet to be held Saturday May 2 next year. Details coming in January!

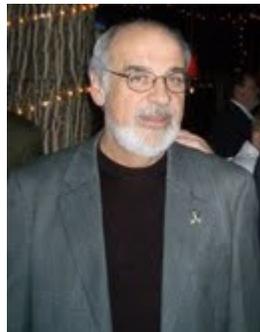
Right now, recruit NEW radio brothers and sisters, and we'll bonus them 6 extra months: That is, their new membership will last until June 30, 2016, a full 18 months.

Radio War Stories by HOF Inductee Buddy Sadler

NOT JUST ANOTHER N.Y.E.

New Years Eve has always been a fun time. The first few in Gallatin usually involved drinking, music, dancing and did I mention drinking? Being the local rock d-j, I was invited to those because I had the music. I had been taught...records are your tools; don't let them be put in the way of danger. So I asked myself, would dancing and drinking put them in harm's way?

So I recorded on a reel to reel...slow speed... (Quality be damned...drunks didn't care about the sound) which added up to a number of hours of pure old rock and roll. I've seen wives embarrass themselves and their husbands, although in a number of cases it wasn't until the next day they realized what and how they had. Two words were uttered....no...you guess.



2014 TRHOF Inductee
Buddy Sadler

In 1968 in Gallatin, the party was at my house. One thing you have to remember. Back in those days...and from many more most of us were very poor, and...if you drank...you brought your own booze. Some chose to mix their drinks...and got really loaded.

I had a small 2 bedroom duplex...really small...and the whole Gallatin Police Department was invited...and most of them came, except the few on duty. It had snowed sometime around the New Year Eve. One officer's wife passed out, in the snow in my front yard. The on duty men pulled up in front of my house and emptied their revolvers into the air. I think there was only one divorce from that night.

A couple of years later in Nashville while at WKDA AM/FM, the head of the Metro Vice Squad was a good friend and invited Karen and me down to his house just off Harding Place. As everyone boozed it, he fired a machine gun into the air. We weren't thinking "I wonder where those come down". By the way, I don't drink anymore!

The last memorable one, the new millennium, I was riding around Nashville, as were most of the WSM news folks, to tell what happened when the new year arrived and we would go through the changing times with who-knew-what. Predictions included everything but most widely accepted was the internet would FAIL and communications would be lost and the country would forever be damaged.

At midnight, my driver, **Metro Police Sgt Emerson "BO" Boguski** turned to me and said, "Buddy, you know where you are?" "Nope." Bo advised me to look around at the changes and tell him what I saw. "Everything looks normal Bo" "That's what I mean," Bo said, "and if the lights are burning...and everything is alright in Joelton, all is right with the world." And it was... for the moment.

There are others with their own New Year's stories. Many that can't be repeated to protect the innocent. But as much as I hated to work on the holiday, I guess the Brand New year 2000 was memorable for predictions that didn't come true, and we were all happier they didn't.

Follow me - to Tennessee (Radio Hall Of Fame, that is...)

TWITTER FEED

About that "bird logo"...No, we're not giving you a rude hand gesture. We are on Twitter with the handle **@TENNRHOF**. Follow us, and learn things as they break...like the next set of Hall of Fame Inductees!

Check Your Calendar

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is open only to the Board of Directors. January 17, 2015 is the first meeting of the new year and we'll be getting into the beginning of the planning phase of the May 2nd Induction Ceremony and Banquet in Murfreesboro. For the event calendar anytime, you can always check the home page of our website at <http://tennradiohalloffame.org>

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ONLINE DONATIONS NOW!

REMINDER: Because of our 501(c)3 IRS status, All donations to the Tennessee Radio Hall Of Fame are tax-deductible. On our home page there is a simple button that says DONATE. But If you have some items you want to donate (Tapes, Vintage Equipment, Vehicles, ANYTHING, contact **Skip Woolwine** or **Nick Archer**. Vintage broadcast gear is welcome, regardless of age or functionality.

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Handsome merchandise with the Tennessee Radio Hall Of Fame logo is now available via our [WEB STORE](#).



Don't forget—(nudge, nudge)

REMINDERS

--- Please send any news, promotions, stories, trivia...maybe you have an old radio story you'd like to share with us....anything that may be of interest to our membership. Please email it any of the newsletter staff listed below. Our newsletter is published the first of every month and back issues may be viewed on our official website at tennradiohalloffame.org Please keep your email address current so you don't miss an issue!

--- A committee has been formed to collect and purchase Tennessee radio memorabilia, including old microphones, on-air signage, transmitter parts, and anything related to TN radio stations. If you have items you'd like to donate (or purchase on Ebay, Craigslist, etc.) please contact Nick Archer. Nick also oversees the TRHOF Facebook page which now boasts over 1000 members, and also our YouTube Page with over 150 airchecks (over 27,000 views!) and other audio/video memories

--- Looking for a gig in Radio, or do you have a spot to fill at your station? Post it HERE next month.

TRHOF's Got Talent—Put it to Work!

GET INVOLVED

Members are always wanting to know how they can do more for the organization than just pay dues and go to the annual banquet. We NEED your help and participation with the Hall of Fame. Projects and tasks, like creating a scrapbook of newspaper clippings or a timeline is vitally important to the organization. Is that a talent you have...or is there something else you can contribute? Maybe you have historical pictures or radio equipment you'd like to donate to the Hall. Let us know...we WANT your interaction! We'll find a place and task for you if you just let us know you want to help out!