

2010 Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service Award

Charles Frodsham, Beloit



Charles was in high school in McPherson when the broadcasting bug first hit him. He worked part time as an announcer at KNEX from 1958-1960. While attending Wichita University (now Wichita State) he took his announcing skills to KLEO and KFH. By 1965 Charles was finished with school and ventured off to Atlantic City and worked as an announcer and sales rep. at WFPG AM/FM.

Three years later, he found himself selling and announcing in Springfield, IL with WTAX(AM)/WDBR(FM). Following a brief stint in New Orleans, Charles came back to the Midwest and Oklahoma City where he sold for KEBC-FM. In 1982 he came full circle back to Kansas and purchased KVSV AM/FM in Beloit. For 18 years, Charles owned and operated the stations by bringing those components of radio broadcasting that he had learned in metro markets such as Wichita, Atlantic City, Springfield, IL and Oklahoma City, to a small rural market.

Just because a market was small and rural, Charles didn't think there was any reason why the on-air presentation had to sound un-programmed, using untrained and inarticulate announcers. Charles always tried to emphasize local news. The stations' staffing always called for a full time news reporter. In addition to general news, his stations covered weather and agriculture as he thought that a good radio should never, in any way, be perceived as a "jukebox".

In 1997, his station was honored with the KAB Small Market Station of the Year award. Charles was also very involved in his community and the KAB. He used his selling experience to increase membership at the Solomon Valley Economic Development Council and Beloit Area Concert Association. He served on the KAB Board of Directors from 1995-1998, and sold KAB convention sponsorships from 2005 - 2009.

Charles lives with his wife, Janna in Beloit. He has two grown children, Eric, and Kimberly.

2010 Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame

Tad Felts, Phillipsburg



Tad started his broadcast career in Garden City at KIUL working for free after school and at night. His primary duties were cleaning floors and playing records. He was under the watchful eye of two legendary Kansas Broadcasters Bob Wells and Tony Jewell. When he enrolled at Ft Hays State in 1951, the recommendation from Wells and Jewell to their friend Bob Schmidt stated he was a hard worker and he works real cheap. In the early days of radio those two attributes would get any one a job in radio.

In 1955 the part time job turned to full time and the rest is history. Tad's next stop was in 1962 in Goodland with Kay Melia, working on air and doing play- by- play. In 1968 Tad moved to Phillipsburg where he accepted the position of news and sports director for KKAN Radio. Tad got the itch to move to the mountains. So in 1970 he moved his wife and two young boys to the wide open spaces of Mountain Home, Idaho. But the boy from Garden City, Kansas longed for the flat land of Kansas and returned to KKAN in 1972 and has been a fixture and Mr. Phillipsburg Radio ever since. He is news and sports director and still hosts a daily radio talk show started in 1972 called the TADPOLL.

Tad has been involved very closely with the schools in the area and has acted as a chaperone on many trips with high school students. While on these trips he has reported on the daily activity to the folks back home. This was before cell phones, so it was a great way to tell mom and dad that everything was OK.

Tad has received numerous honors from both the community and profession. He is a three - time recipient of the Sportscaster of the Year, and a 10 time winner of the Phillips County Extension Council Outstanding Service Award. The KAB has awarded Tad the Hod Humiston Sportscaster Award and the Sonny Slater Award for Service to the Community and Station.

Tad is married to his wife Patricia and have two sons – Greg and Marc. They also have 3 grandchildren.

2010 Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame

Henry Harvey, Wichita (Posthumously)



Henry joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and served in the Pacific campaign in New Guinea as a medic and Special Services as Entertainment, Information and Education Director. After his discharge in 1946, he attended Friends University where he graduated with a degree in speech and drama. While in school Henry began working at KFDI radio in Wichita and for the next 10 years he served as Sports Director, News Director and chief announcer.

In 1957, Henry embarked on a 38 year career on television when he took a job at KAKE. Over the years he portrayed a variety of characters that made children laugh, did live commercials, and sang at concerts and funerals. But he was best known in the Wichita TV market as Santa Claus. Along with KAKEMAN, he entertained a generation of children on television and in person. In its heyday, “Santa’s Workshop” was a live, unscripted half-hour daily show that started shortly after Thanksgiving each year and ended on Christmas Eve. Santa and KAKEMAN would build the excitement leading up to Christmas through their good-humored interplay.

Henry left KAKE in 1972 after 15 years. He worked the next five years in his Church's mission program, primarily with a radio station in Burundi, Africa and as Mission Board Chairman, for his Church, from Ohio to the West Coast. Henry continued Santa’s Workshop at KAKE until 1976 when Henry went to KTVH Channel 12, later to become KWCH. He stayed at Channel 12 for the next 10 years. At Channel 12, he began a new adventure as Santa with his sidekick, Toyboy.

Henry passed away in 1993. He and his wife Flo had two children – Mike and Sylvia. Mike and his wife Flo have 6 children of their own.

2010 KAB Mike Oatman Award

Roger Dodson, Lincoln, NE



Roger graduated from the University of Nebraska while working for Stuart Broadcasting (owned by the James Stuart family and the NBC banking company). He stayed with the company until 1981 when he was promoted to President of Long-Pride Broadcasting owned by Country Music entertainer Charley Pride. Roger was a stockholder in Long-Pride and they also owned stations in Wichita and Beaumont Texas.

Roger went to work for Mike Oatman and developed the Great Empire Institute for Sales; a thirteen week sales training program and all sellers from Wichita, Denver, Springfield, Missouri, Shreveport, Louisiana and Omaha were enrolled. After the initial program Great Empire provided the Institute for every sales person hired until Mike and co-owner Mike Lynch sold the Company to Journal Broadcast.

Following a stint in the mortgage sales business, in 1990 Roger was asked to take control of a small company of ten radio stations. The stations were losing \$800,000 cash annually and he immediately re-named the company as Radio One and took the stations to black in less than two years. The owner then sold the stations to Three Eagles of which that company has now 58 stations in the mid-west.

Roger served the radio industry for ten years as Senior Vice President for Sales training and literally worked in all 228 arbitron rated markets as well as doing sales and management workshops in 28 other countries. In 2004 he was asked to join Three Eagles Communications as President of Sales to re-vamp their sales programs for all of their 58 stations. Roger has spent the last five years as an instructor at UNL teaching sales courses to juniors and seniors.

Roger was named National Broadcaster of the year in 1995, inducted into the Nebraska Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2003 and named the College of Journalism's outstanding alumnus. Roger married JeNeane Schelbitzki from Bruning, Nebraska and their son is an account executive for KLBJ (named for Lady Bird Johnson) in Austin, Texas and their daughter Alesia Spangler teaches in Lincoln Public Schools.

2010 KAB Sonny Slater Award

Rod Keen, Clay Center



Rod got his start in radio in 1985 at KSAL, working the night shift on the weekends. That is where he got his nickname “Cowboy” – he was the weekend kid with a cowboy hat and boots. He had the opportunity to work with Sonny Slater while he was there, Sonny meant a lot to him. Rod continued to work part time for KSAL until the time he started at KCLY in 1992.

Rod carries a huge load of responsibilities for Taylor Communications. As Operations Manager, he is responsible for directing the care, maintenance, and operation of all the equipment for the company, including computers, remote equipment, transmitters, towers, and STL’s. Rod directs the Severe Weather Coverage Team for KCLY, serves in rotation on call with the team, and is in charge of our EAS equipment and compliance. Whether it is fighting his way to the transmitters in blizzards to scoop snow away from the AM towers, melting ice off of propane tanks during ice storms, or working on a transmitter in the middle of a lightning storm, Rod has always made the reliable operation of the stations an utmost priority.

Rod has volunteered as scout leader for his oldest son’s Boy Scout troop from 1998 through 2005. During this time he received a district award for his service as Den Leader of the year. The last two years, he was scout master of the troop, and volunteered his time every Monday night for meetings and one weekend a month for overnight campout and one full week each summer to take his troop to camp.

He has also been involved in many volunteer ministries throughout his life. He has worked with evangelist Clint Decker. Together they started a bar ministry that lasted for 3 years and continue to work together on "Sunday Meetin' Time" - a southern gospel radio program that airs on KCLY and KFRM every Sunday morning. Rod has been involved in prison ministries and continues to go to prison with a local church about twice a year, with the IFI, InnerChange Freedom Initiative.

Rod and his wife of 23 years, Dana, have 4 children.

2010 KAB Friend of Kansas Broadcasting

Ralph E. Meador, Lexington, MO



Ralph's first job in radio broadcasting was at Radio Station WING-AM, Dayton, Ohio in 1942. He spent eighteen months overseas during World War Two serving with the Armed Forces Radio, American Forces Network installing Radio Stations in Paris, France and Frankfurt and Bremen, Germany.

Upon returning to the States, he was employed at Radio Station KSWM and later with KFSB, Joplin, Missouri until 1954. He moved to Spokane, Washington working as Chief Engineer of KREM AM/FM& TV until September of that year when he moved back to the Midwest to Quincy, Illinois. He was employed by Gates Radio Company as a development engineer doing design work on equipment for radio broadcast stations.

In 1955, he applied for and founded Radio Station KLEX, Lexington, Missouri. KLEX-FM was added later for a KLEX AM and FM operation. The FM station is now located in Kansas City with studios in Kansas City, Missouri. Ralph has supervised the installation of over 10 radio stations in his broadcast career. In 1970, he founded the Brokerage firm of R.E. Meador & Associates, Inc. Since then, he has been active fulltime for over 40 years as a Media Broker in appraisals, acquisitions and as a Media Consultant. He has brokered the sales of hundreds of Radio Stations and has appraised several hundred stations in the Mid-west during his career.

Ralph was recognized for forty years of services as a Media Broker by the National Association of Media Brokers at the National Association of Broadcasters Convention in April, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has been active in Civic Organizations and Churches acting as President of the Joplin Junior Chamber of Commerce, President of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce and Vice-President of the Lexington Lions Club. He is a member of the Second Baptist Church of Liberty, Missouri. He is an Ordained Deacon in the Baptist Church.

Ralph was married to Thelma Meador for 65 years. Thelma died in 2005. They had Two children, Randy Meador (wife Lynn) of Kansas City, Missouri and Carla Fritts, (husband Steve) of Louisville, Kentucky and five grandchildren.