



TIC TOC

April 1970

BAXIE HOWELL RETIRING MAY 1 AFTER 27 YEARS

Forrest (Baxie) Howell, a WTIC engineer for more than 27 years, retires on May 1.

Baxie's many friends will have a chance to wish him a happy retirement at a reception in Radio Studio 1, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 30.

Baxie and his wife of 42 years plan to continue living in Manchester after their retirement, but, according to friends in the Engineering Department, there will also probably be a little traveling on their schedule from time to time.

There will also probably be no change in his long-term enthusiasm for ham radio operating, a hobby that gave him years of pleasure--and his nickname, for call letters WIBAX.

Baxie was born and raised in Pennsylvania, but he has lived in the Hartford area for more than four decades. He attended the Allentown, Pa. Bible School and studied electronics at schools in Manchester and Hartford before joining WTIC on Sept. 28, 1942.

WEATHER SERVICE MOVES INTO NEW PLAZA QUARTERS

The Travelers Weather Service officially opened its new quarters on Constitution Plaza April 28.

Operation of the Weather Service was assumed by Broadcast-Plaza, Inc. on April 1.

The building houses the complex equipment used by the nine-member Weather Service staff to provide other information 24 hours a day for WTIC Radio and Television, six other stations in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, private companies and state agencies.

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BROADCAST HOUSE EXPANSION WILL ADD TO THREE FLOORS

A major expansion of Broadcast House, which will add 14,000 square feet of floor space to the second, third and fourth floors, has been announced by President Patricelli.

Construction is expected to begin in May and to be completed in approximately eight months. The addition will be constructed on the north side of the building, over the Plaza Garage, to the Hotel Sonesta.

Expansion of the second floor will provide a larger videotape room and a new tape storage area, a film storage room near the present projection room, a large, dual purpose conference room and additional offices.

On the third floor, the newsroom will double its present size and a reference library, conference room and offices will be added. Additional offices will also be constructed on the fourth floor.

A large freight elevator will also be added to the north side of the building. It will run from the basement to the fourth floor and will greatly facilitate the movement of large, heavy equipment.

Charles DuBose of Hartford is the architect for the Broadcast House expansion project. Steve Myers and John Reno have been assigned to work closely with the architect.

JOE GIRAND DIES AT 49 FOLLOWING HEART SURGERY

Joe Girand, a well-known Hartford radio personality for more than 25 years, died April 24 at Hartford Hospital, where he had undergone open heart surgery. He was 49.

"The death of Joe Girand saddens all of us and our deepest sympathy goes to his family for their great loss," said President Patricelli. "We shall miss him. He was a broadcaster whose skills we appreciated and a man whose character we admired."

Girand's Hartford radio career was primarily at two stations, WTIC and WHT, which was operated by The Hartford Times in the 1940s and '50s. At the time of his death, he was on the staff of WTIC and host of its daily "Afternoon Edition" program. He also broadcast the station's evening "Stock Market Final" program.

A Hartford native, Girand began his broadcasting career in the 1930s as a page boy with the National Broadcasting Company, a route used by many successful broadcasters. He liked to recall his days as a page, working for \$15 a

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PAINTING BY RUFUS COES
AT MAJOR ART EXHIBITION

A painting by Rufus Coes has been accepted for the prestigious 60th Annual Exhibition of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts.

The exhibition is currently being held at the Austin Gallery of the Wadsworth Atheneum. It will continue through May 17.

Two other paintings by Coes have been selected for the Connecticut Artists Juried Exhibition at the Slater Museum in Norwich.

MARK TWAIN DESCRIBES HOME
IN BEGLEY-STEELE SPECIAL

Mark Twain describes his Hartford home in his own words--spoken by Academy Award winner Ed Begley--when WTIC-TV presents "A Connecticut Yankee in Mark Twain's House" on Wednesday, May 13, at 8:30 p.m.

Part of WTIC-TV's "Places and People" series, the program features Begley as the unseen voice of Mark Twain and Bob Steele as himself. Begley and Steele often appeared on radio together when both were beginning their careers on WTIC in the 1930s.

The only person seen on the program is Steele, whose visit to the Mark Twain Museum becomes a tour of the handsome, old house conducted by Mark Twain, himself. As Steele goes through the house, there are occasional glimpses of Twain's hand as he lights a cigar for his visitor or his back, as he steers Steele from one room to another.

All of the words spoken by Twain to describe the house, the Samuel L. Clemens family and their Hartford friends of a century ago, are taken from the writings of Mark Twain. Not a word was added to those originally written by Twain in his autobiography.

As Steele goes from room to room, he hears from Twain about life in the house and in nineteenth century Hartford when the author was one of Hartford's most prominent--if unpredictable--citizens. Twain describes his wife, Livy, and his children. He tells the poignant story of the death of his daughter, Susy, in the Hartford house when she was only 24.

He tells why he smoked only cheap cigars and how he cleared the house of his guests one night when he had only his personal cigars to offer them. In the bedroom, he recalls the time he threw three shirts from the bathroom window when he discovered buttons were missing and how, to his horror, he discovered too that his wife was listening to the language he was using as he hurled each shirt from the window onto the shrubbery below.

Over a game of billiards in the third floor billiard room, Twain tells why he was neither a Republican nor Democrat, although in the community, they considered him a Republican.

As Twain talks and Steele listens--and asks an occasional question--the cameras roam through the

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NOTES FROM *Nancy*

Wedding bells haven't broken up that old gang...they all went to the wedding! When CARMEN LAROCQUE became Mrs. Dennis McGroarty on April 18, MARY DONAVAN was matron of honor and PAULINE TRUDEAU and JOANNE REID were bridesmaids. But keep your eyes on Pauline she may be the next in white..she caught the bridal bouquet!

Now that she has traded her reception desk for a new desk, JEAN ANDERSON has already started moving the furniture, just ask CHUCK or GEORGE. JOHN LANZIERI has helped with the new decor in the office by designing new name plaques for the desks.

We've had more than our share of arrivals and departures this month... GRACE LOWN's second retirement party was, in her words, "overwhelming and pleasing." LINDA LU LAWTON tearfully left us to take on a challenging new job with a law firm here in town. And rumor says there will be more fond adieu bid next month.

All three new faces are married faces..but cheer up girls...they may have brothers. Look for STEVE MONJE and BILL HEARD in the Newsroom and BOB DUNN in Radio Sales.

Vacation time...FLOYD RICHARDS returned tanned and rested from his cruise...FRED EDWARDS, tanned and full of praise for our TV Operations here after a trip through the southlands...and ROSEMARY BRANDT, tanned and bubbling over with good words about the YWCA projects after again answering the call and attending the 25th National YWCA Convention of the USA in Houston, Texas...and what GENE MURIATY needed last week was a floating golf ball and a pair of waders to engage in his favorite sport.

The cylinders were bored out...oversized pistons were inserted...the machine was waiting for a rider...the rider was waiting for her license... HER??...yes HER license. It finally arrived on April 7 and SUE DERA is now confidently riding about on two motorized wheels.

BALNIUS-KOPCSAK

The engagement of Miss Patricia Anne Balnius to Capt. William John Kopcsak, USA, has been made known by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Balnius of Summit St. Captain Kopcsak is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Kopcsak of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Miss Balnius received a B.S. in child development from the University of Connecticut, and an M.S. in education from Indiana University. She is a member of Pi Lambda Theta, National Honorary Society for Women in Education. Miss Balnius is employed by the Windsor school system as a teacher.

Capt. Kopcsak received an A.B. in history from Indiana University, and a J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law. He was admitted to the Indiana and Pennsylvania state bars and is serving as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Army in Maryland.

The wedding is planned for June 27.

BEGLEY-STEELE SPECIAL

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rooms of the historic mansion, which is now a national landmark. Viewers will see just about everything visitors see and have the added pleasure of hearing the words of Mark Twain as they go from room to room.

The program was produced by George Bowe and directed by Jim Aseitine. The script was taken from the works of Mark Twain by Dick Ahles. Allen Allshouse was the film editor; Randy Scalise did the sound; Bruce Murray and John Dwyer, the lighting, and Bob Butterworth and Lynn Boscher, the photography. An excerpt from Susy Clemens' biography of her father was spoken by Sheila Bowe. Siri Larson of the Mark Twain Museum was the program consultant.

KOLOUCH CATCHES

CHINESE ANTHEM

Not long after the Chinese launched their satellite, Engineer Bill Kolouch had it broadcasting on WTIC. Bill recorded the satellite's electronic rendition of the Communist Chinese anthem "The East is Red," on an all-band receiver in master control. The recording was played on several news-

JOE GIRAND DIES AT 49

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week with other ambitious youngsters like Gordon MacRae and the future New York disc jockeys William B. Williams and Ted Steele. He went from NBC to a station deep in the West Virginia hills, where he worked as an announcer until he once said, "I escaped after two months when I realized they couldn't understand me and I couldn't understand them."

He made his way back to Hartford by way of stations in Paterson, N.J. and Philadelphia, finally joining WHTT in the 1940s. At the Times station, he did everything from children's programs to man-in-the-street interviews to sports. Many Hartford area residents still remember a milk-drinking song Girand wrote and recorded 20 years ago to encourage children to drink milk.

For several seasons, Girand teamed with Harold Ogden of the Times to describe the baseball games of the Hartford Chiefs, a team that represented Hartford in the Eastern League.

He often told young announcers and radio newsman of his memorable special events broadcasts, the victory announcements ending World War II in Europe and Japan and the tragic Hartford circus fire in 1944. He considered the circus fire his most difficult broadcast assignment, recalling reading the names of the dead and discovering that many names belonged to people he knew.

After WHTT went off the air, Girand left broadcasting for a number of years to work as a registered representative with a brokerage firm--a position that led to his return to radio and his association with WTIC, beginning in 1963. In that year, he began writing and broadcasting the "Stock Market Final" program on WTIC. His return to the air prompted many listeners to urge him to resume broadcasting on a full-time basis and in the summer of 1966, he joined the WTIC staff as an announcer.

In his relatively brief career at WTIC, Girand quickly achieved the success he had enjoyed earlier in his career. As host of the station's "Afternoon Edition" and "Saturday Showcase" programs, he was responsible for two of WTIC's major programs.

Girand lived at 53 Beverly Road, West Hartford. He leaves his wife, Margaret, two sons and four daughters.

WEATHER SERVICE MOVES

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Visitors will be able to enter a large lobby and watch forecasts being prepared in one section and broadcast from a studio next to the forecasting area. Lobby displays will be devoted to information on weather observation, forecasting and broadcasting. They will be changed periodically and will deal with weather data appropriate to each season. By picking up a telephone receiver, a visitor will be able to listen to a brief message describing what is happening in the forecasting and broadcasting areas of the Weather Service. All of the weather instruments used in preparing forecasts will be visible to visitors.