

CARL J. MEYERS, WGN BROADCAST PIONEER, DIES

CARL J. MEYERS, 76, former vice president and manager of engineering for WGN Continental Broadcasting Company and one of the nation's foremost broadcast pioneers, died on July 29 in St. Joseph's Hospital in Elgin, Illinois, following a long illness.

Meyers retired from WGN in 1967 after 42 years with the company, then served as a consultant to WGN until 1972.

In 1966, he was presented the National Association of Broadcasters' Engineering Achievement Award, the industry's highest such honor, primarily for his worldwide recognition as a color telecasting authority.

His innovations in the early days of radio engineering were numerous. Meyers' remote circuit design was responsible for initiating sports and special events pick-ups by WGN, including the Indianapolis 500, Kentucky Derby and political conventions. He also pioneered in early recording techniques for syndicating radio network programs which WGN originated live in the 1930's.

One of Meyers' most outstanding achievements was his development in 1929 of two-way radios for police cars, which not only brought law officials from all over to study and duplicate his system but proved to auto manufacturers that radios in private cars could also be practical.

During World War II, as a Commander in the Navy, Meyers worked on secret aviation uses for radar, television and guided missiles. Upon his return to WGN, he devoted full time to the development of television research, a project he had begun in 1927. His numerous technical developments and component designs soon became standards for the industry.

He is survived by a son, CARL JACK MEYERS, the director of Central Scheduling for WGN Radio and WGN Television; a granddaughter, Leisa; a brother William; and a sister, Alice Cunningham.

Carl Meyers

Engineer



Career Highlights:

- Joined WGN Radio on Christmas Day, 1925.
- Remained with the station into the 1960s.
- Built his first crystal radio at the age of 10 in 1912. Ten years later, he was building radio stations, including WTAS in Elgin, which was soon acquired by Tribune.
- In March, 1929, Meyers (far left in picture above) implemented a project to broadcast police calls to squad cars over WGN's airwaves. WGN would interrupt its programming to carry the messages to officers in the field. This would quickly lead to the police radio systems that are now commonplace.
- Received the National Association of Broadcasters Engineering Achievement Award.
- **Jack Brickhouse** is reported to have said "Meyers was tinkering with radio fifteen years before Marconi even invented it." While not literally true, it reflects the respect Meyers earned among his colleagues.
- Meyers' son Jack would also have a long career with the company, working as a cameraman at WGN-TV for over 30 years.



Meyers (left) during a test of the system to broadcast police calls to squad cars.



CHARLES J. ROTHERS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF WGN CONTINENTAL BROADCASTING COMPANY

CHARLES J. ROTHERS, president and treasurer of WGN Electronic Systems Company and director of Engineering and Development for WGN Continental stations, was elected a vice president and director of WGN Continental Broadcasting Company. DANIEL T. PECARO, president and chief executive officer for the broadcasting company, made the announcement.

Rothers, a veteran employee, joined WGN in 1948 as an engineering field supervisor, coming from WBKB-TV where he held a similar position. He then left WGN in 1962 to become vice president of operations for Industrial Television Services, Inc. Two years later, he rejoined WGN as an administrative engineer and in May, 1967, was named administrative engineer - special projects.

In 1968 he was named to the Board of Directors of WGN Electronic Systems Company and elected treasurer of the CATV subsidiary. The following year he was named Executive Vice President and Treasurer. On July 29, 1975, he was elected President and Treasurer of WGN Electronic Systems Company.

This past June he was given additional responsibilities as Director of Engineering and Development, WGN Continental Stations.

Rothers attended Grove City College in Pennsylvania, where is majored in electrical engineering, then served four years in World War II with the Naval Air Force in advanced electronics.

He is a member of the Society of the Cable Television Engineers.

