



New Transmitter Site for CBW Winnipeg
The CBC relocated its southern Manitoba AM site from Carman to Springstein, providing greatly improved reception to Winnipeg. The new Nautel AMPFET ND-50 was turned on Oct. 15/93 during a live broadcast. In photo, from left, are: John Coutanche, Director of Radio, CBC Manitoba; Diane Wreford, host of Noon Show; and Hon. Clayton Manness, Manitoba's Minister of Education. (Courtesy of CBC Regional Engineer Martin Marcotte.)

CRTC: TWO BIDS FOR ALBERTA TV
A CRTC hearing in Calgary the week of Jan. 25 heard applications for new TV services in Alberta.

- **CanWest Global's AltaWest** proposes stations in Calgary (ch.5, 33.1 kw) with a rebroadcaster in Lethbridge (ch.2, 39.7 kw) and Edmonton (ch.17, 370 kw) with a rebroadcaster in Red Deer (ch.4, 14.1 kw). AltaWest promises strong emphasis on news in alternative time slots, a \$10 million budget for independent production, and special drama, documentary and musical talent projects. It would not accept local advertising on the stations. Based in Calgary, AltaWest would have over 100 full-time, plus 'several dozen' part-time/freelance staff.

- **The Alberta Channel** is a partnership of Craig Broadcasting of Manitoba (57%), David MacKenzie of Edmonton (33%) and MidWest TV of Lloydminster (10%). It proposes stations at Calgary (ch.5, 44.7 kw) with rebroadcasters at Lethbridge (ch.2, 51.5 kw) and Drumheller (ch.3, 37.8 kw) and Edmonton (ch.51, 1224 kw) with a rebroadcaster at Red Deer (ch.20, 415 kw). Calgary and Edmonton operations would each employ 125 people. Linked by fiber optics, the stations would be heavy on local news/programming and movies. In the first licence term, \$16.6 million would be committed to independent production.

- The future of Alberta's **Access Network** is in the hands of the provincial government, which is making drastic cuts to balance its budget. Access submitted its own recommendations to the government in a report filed early in February. CKUA Radio, with a \$2.4 million budget, is seeking interim financing from the province and hopes to survive as a separate not-for-profit corporation.

STATIONS IN THE NEWS

CanWest Global says it wants to fill another gap in its national network: Montreal. Further international expansion is also planned for this year — likely in a Spanish-language country... **CRTC APPROVALS:** • Sale of former easy listening **CHQM Vancouver** to James Ho for \$1.8 million; it becomes an ethnic station, primarily Chinese. (Denied was SCMO for **CKKS-FM Vancouver** to carry ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese programs.) • Purchase of **CHOK Sarnia** by Wayne Steele for \$485,000. CHOK has been unprofitable in recent years. • Transfer of **CFQX-FM Selkirk, MB**, to Craig Broadcast Systems for \$1.65 million. In Québec, two AMs move to FM: • Cogeco's **CHLC Baie-Comeau** from 580 to 97.1, (4.2 kw); • Radio Express' **CKOD Valleyfield** from 1370 to 102.9, (3 kw). • Communications Robert Lauzon Inc. was given approval to buy bankrupt **CHRD Drummondville** for \$275,500... More 'rationalization': Rogers has agreed to purchase **CKDA/CFMS-FM Victoria** and plans to pair the FM with **CJVI**, while Stu Morton's **CKKQ-FM** would take over the AM... Two Toronto stations liked the Fall BBM radio survey: **CFMX-FM** (Classical 96) had a 3.8 share; its 282,900 listeners were 20% more than in Fall '92. Full coverage area circulation is 365,000... **CJCL** (The Fan 1430) says it's #1 for men 18+ in greater Toronto and has a weekly audience of 711,300 listeners. GM Don Pagnutti says The Fan is getting the highest share in North America for all-sports radio... Speaking of sports: **CTV** and **Baton Broadcasting** have made a deal for massive coverage of basketball: it includes the NBA All-Star game and 40 hours of prime time coverage and 9 games from the August 4-14 world championships in Toronto and Hamilton, where **TSN** may pick up 20 to 30 more games... **The Voice of America** invited bids on its two 100 kw AM stations in Belize, Central America, which were to close by March 31/94. VOA says the site could also be used for SW or FM, but use of the land must be negotiated with the government of Belize... **CHCH-TV Hamilton's Canada Tonight** was moved from the 7-8 slot to 6:30-7:00pm... A record eight **TVOntario** programs have garnered 13 nominations in the Gemini Awards to be held March 3 and 5.

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JERRY FAIRBRIDGE

Syndicated Radio Programming Can Build Audience, Reduce Costs

In the January issue of BT I discussed the ideas of several industry leaders for rationalizing the radio industry. Part of rationalization may be to make wise use of satellite programming. Here's a list of long-form syndicated programming delivered by satellite. I tried to contact all the programmers; apologies if I missed any. There are many shorter syndicated features that are not listed here.

SOUND SOURCE (Standard Broadcasting):

- *Command Performance*. Monthly 90-min. in-studio performance by hot artists, with interviews, before a live audience.
- *Countdown Canada*. Weekly 2-hr. countdown of top 20 hits, including interviews with performers; hosted by **Bill Hayes**.
- *Private Session*. Monthly 60-min. live by major AC artists.
- *Rock 20 Countdown*. Weekly 2-hr. countdown of top 20 rock hits, hosted by **Liz McKinney**.
- *Country World Premiere*. Monthly 90-min. premiering albums by hot country artists.
- *World Album Premiere*. Premieres rock albums from around the world.
- *Back Stage Past* with Wacko and Macko. Weekly 60-min. **Bob Mackowicz**, former host and originator of Q107 Toronto *Rock Report* (and co-author of *Dream Tower*) spends an hour with **Andy Bianchi** (Wacko) of The Mix 99.9 morning show, listening to two or three classic rock concerts of the '60s, '70s and '80s; features the best live music of the classic rock era and the attitudes of those times.
- *Money Matters* with **Brian Costello**. National weekly 60-min. call-in show.
- *BBC In Concert Series*. Weekly 60-min classic concerts recorded live by the BBC.

WIN (WIC Western International Communications):

Owned by talk leaders WIC, WIN naturally has a large number of talk shows. Operates mainly in West and all times are Pacific. Much of this programming originates at CKNW.

- **Rafe Mair**. Former politician talks and answers phones, 9:00 to 10:30 am weekdays; has biggest audience of any talk show host in Western Canada.
- **Bill Good** showcases western issues; 2:06-2:59 pm weekdays.
- *The World Tonight*. Current affairs, hosted by **Philip Till** and **Jon McComb**, 6:30 to 7:59 pm weeknights.
- *Sportstalk*. **Dan Russell** interviews athletes and experts; 10:16 to 11:59 pm weeknights.
- *Nightshift*. Runs 12:06-3:39 am daily with **David Berner** weekdays/**Stirling Faux** weekends; blends hard/lifestyle news.
- *The Home Discovery Show*. Saturday, 7:05 to 8:59 am.
- *Home Ideas*. Sunday, 8:30 to 9:53 am.
- *Housecalls*. Sunday, 10:07 to 10:59 am.
- *Money Talks*. Saturday, 9:06 to 9:59 am.
- *The Car Show*. Saturday, 10:06 to 10:59 am.
- *Network Replay* with **Jack Cullen**. Weeknights, 11:06-11:59pm.

The nostalgia of old dramas, music specials, comedies and documentaries.

Music:

- *Nightside*. Nightly, 8:06 to 9:59 pm and 4:06 to 5:59 am.
- *Christmas Is*. Seasonal, 12-hr. MOR edition or 6-hr. AOR show of Christmas music and memories; has been running coast-to-coast for more than two decades.
- *New Year on the West Coast*. Annual 6-hr. look at previous 12 months and the year to come.
- *Rock Radio Network*. Daily overnight show from Toronto.

SATELLITE RADIO NETWORK (Rogers Broadcasting):

- *Good Time Oldies*. Weekdays 2pm to 6am; Weekends and statutory holidays 24-hrs. Features request show *Goldline* with **Tom Lucas**, weekdays 7pm-11pm Pacific time.
- *Country Music Radio*. Weekdays 9am-6am; Weekends and holidays 24-hrs. Features request show *Cryin', Lovin' or Leavin'* hosted by **Shelley Fraser** weekdays 7pm-11pm and *Country Cabaret* with **Buzz McEgan** Saturdays 6pm-midnight Pacific.
- *Today's Country*. Sat. 8-9pm. Live country/interview show with audience at ElectricImages studio in Toronto.
- *Inside Country*. Weekly, available as 1 or 2 hours; interviews, etc. with countdown of Canada's 10 hottest country hits.
- *Sunday Sunday*. Weekly 1-hr. current affairs; hosts **Arlene Bynon** in Toronto and **Campbell McCubbin** in Vancouver.

WORLD RADIO NETWORK: • *Real Radio*. Weekly 4-hrs. hosted by **Fred Davis** and **Judy Webb**; recreates early radio, mixing nostalgic music with information for mature audience.

WESTWOOD ONE: • *Larry King*. U.S. talk show, M-F, 3 hrs.

SPORTS: From **Telemedia Network Radio**, *Prime Time Sports*, 6-7pm Eastern, breaking stories direct from the newsmakers; Play-by-play of Blue Jays baseball, World Series, Maple Leafs hockey; SuperBowl; Grey Cup. Other play-by-play includes: From **WIN**, Vancouver Canucks and B.C. Lions (CKNW), Jets and Blue Bombers (CJOB Winnipeg); Saskatchewan Roughriders from **Harvard Developments'** CKRM Regina; Flames from **Rawlco's** CFFR Calgary; Edmonton Oilers from **CFCW** Camrose/Edmonton. From **Promark Motorsport**, *Raceline*, one-hour magazine/open-line show, Apr. to Nov.

Québec networks have not been listed because the situation there is very different from the rest of Canada. Networks in Québec have the simpler task of catering to a single region; almost all French-language radio stations are affiliated with networks and have been for years.

* * * * *

Ken Clarke, who was looking after CanWest Global's New Zealand property, has left the company... CHCH-TV Hamilton president **Steve Harris** left at the end of December. He was succeeded by **James Macdonald**, formerly a VP at Rogers' CFMT-TV Toronto... A nice boost for CHCH-TV: 65 episodes of *Boogie's Diner* are being shot at the studios. 'CH owns the Canadian rights to the half-hour teen sitcom, which debuts this month. It's a production of King Street Entertainment. Canadian model **Monika Schnarre** plays Zoya, billed as "the gorgeous '90s version of Suzanne Somers"... Recapping the changes at CBC News: **David Bezac** from acting news editor to chief news editor; **Chris Waddell** from senior producer to Ottawa bureau chief; named executive producers are **Paul Lewis** (national TV news) and **Don Knox** (news gathering)...

Here I have a tough time doing one job and **Terry Coles** is doing three: he's still working on special projects at CUC; is project co-ordinator for AltaWest in its application for new Alberta TV licences (heard by the CRTC in late January); and is interim president of YTV. And he still hopes to get some time for skiing before the winter is through...

In the obituaries: **Marjorie Blackburn**, wife of Walter J. Blackburn, who built the London Free Press media empire, died at age 80 — ten years after her husband's death...

Bert Cannings, who gave a start to so many young news people, died in October at the age of 82... And **Barry Gage**, president of Maclean Hunter Cable, died at the age of 55.

CHUM's CFRA Ottawa made lineup changes six months into a news/talk format. **Lowell Green** is hosting weekday early afternoons. CJOH-TV's 6pm *Newsline*, which was simulcast on 'KOOL' FM, moves to CFRA. **Michael O'Brien** goes from afternoons back to the newsroom to anchor an expanded afternoon news schedule including the new *Five O'Clock World*. And **Fred Ennis** is back on radio hosting the 3-5pm slot... NewCap's CFDR-Dartmouth is now KIXX 780, "the home of hot country favorites". It was Top 40. **Bruce Tinkham**, GM & GSM, is gone from CFDR/CFRQ-FM. **Tom Manton** moved from CIGM/CJRQ-FM Sudbury to become VP, sales; **Barry Horne**, group PD who was leaving NewCap, is staying on... **Doug Ackhurst** took over as VP Telemedia North and GM of CIGM/CJRQ Sudbury. He was succeeded at Orillia by **Randy Redden**, Power's former chief at CKRU/CKWF-FM Peterborough...

At CFOX-FM Vancouver **Bob Mills** took over as PD, moving from CJAY-FM Calgary; **Mary Ann MacKenzie** is now assistant PD. **Tamara Taggart** moved to CISL/CKZZ-FM as promotions manager... PD **Brian Depoe** moved from CKWX Vancouver to CHFM Calgary — both Rogers stations... **Jeff Vidler**, former PD at CJFM Montreal, is now managing the Angus Reid Group's new market research division for radio...

Two move to Reform Party: **Phil DeVos** left CJGX to be executive assistant to **Garry Bretkreuz**, MP for Yorkton-Melville. He was succeeded by **Randy Atkinson**. In B.C., **Tanya Steer** left CFVR Abbotsford to work for **Randy White**, MP for Fraser Valley West... **Robert Linden**, formerly of SBN in Vancouver is now at CFVR... In another SBN move, **Murray Brewster** from CJMO Moncton, N.B., was hired as SBN's Ottawa bureau chief... **Wilf Warner**, president of the Sunshine Radio Network in southern B.C. got his FM rebroadcast licence for Nelson... At Trail, **Paige MacFarlane** is now ND for the Kootenay Broadcast System... Niagara area stations CHOW Welland and CHSC St. Catharines applied to merge...

Joining Forces: Former competitors CHUB and CKEG Nanaimo are now working together: CHUB is applying for a move to FM and asking that the two stations be allowed to operate from the same building. This follows another management arrangement in Calgary — as reported BT in January, Golden West's CFXL would go FM and share facilities with CFFR. The new holding company would be 82.5% Rowlco-owned.

AM 104 VANCOUVER: MIRACLE IN THE MAKING?

It's billed as 'the miracle on Pender Street'. It's the story of AM 104, which most people thought was about to die. It has broken hearts and wallets ever since it started operations in the fall of 1986 — not succeeding, despite huge efforts by some good people. The current owner, **Clint Forster's** Western World Communications, signed a management agreement with Golden Communications, which was to purchase AM 104, but that group's financing collapsed. The people who

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are running the station, mostly from the old CHQM, refused to give up. They kept working — unpaid from Nov. 15 to Dec. 17 — convinced someone would like their new format enough to buy the station. Just before Christmas, a group of Vancouver investors stepped in and now have an application before the CRTC. Paycheques started again — and the new owners are keeping the format. **Brian Benn**, although no longer part of the purchasing group, is president and CEO of the new company. The format is carried over from the old CHQM, updated for the '90s. Brian says it targets 45+ but audience seems to be skewing to 35+. It sets out to be thoughtful radio, delivering more than music. Everyone's waiting for ratings, but so far it seems to be working...

Also looking for a miracle...? Classic rock CHRX Vancouver became CKBD, "The Bridge" 600, becoming Canada's first station with a Contemporary Christian format, plus news, weather and traffic reports... Meanwhile, the CRTC approved the sale of CHQM by CHUM Ltd. to investors who will operate it as an ethnic station, putting pressure on CJVB Vancouver.

Following a period of major purchases of TV stations, Baton Broadcasting appears to be emphasizing program creation. After hiring **Ivan Fecan** as senior VP of programming and a director, Baton completed a co-op script agreement with CBS. Fecan's appointment to the board was not entirely expected inside Baton... **George Clark**, news director of Baton's CFPL-TV London, CHWI-TV Windsor and CKNX-TV Wingham group, was named GM of Headline. It's the cable specialty channel for which Baton Broadcasting and the CBC have jointly applied. He's worked for 27 years for CFPL-TV...

CONVENTION NEWS

WAB '94: The Western Assn. of Broadcasters looks to the past as well as the future as it returns to Jasper Park Lodge June 4-6 for its 60th Anniversary, with the theme *Back to the Future*. The WAB moved its convention 300 km south to Kananaskis a few years ago for cheaper hotel rooms. However, this is a historic and nostalgic year and the WAB hopes to attract a lot of pioneers to Jasper. President **David Wiebe** says special invitations have gone out to those who were involved in the 50th anniversary, to past presidents and honorary life members: wonderful characters like Rory MacLennan, Orv Kope, Vern Traill, Jim Edwards, Dennis Fisher, Blair Nelson, Peggy Miller, Don Brinton, Lew Roskin, George Brown and others — some still active in broadcasting and some not. The entertainment will involve some of them. As any westerner knows, there are some great humorists in that crowd!...

Banff Television Festival: Feb. 25 is the deadline for entries to this year's program competition. The Festival runs June 5-11. For information, contact Box 1020, Banff, AB, T0L 0C0; Tel (403) 762-3060 or Fax (403) 762-5357.

AAB: Atlantic Broadcasters take their 48th annual convention to Summerside, P.E.I., June 9-12.

Junos: And don't forget the Junos, March 20 at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto, to be produced by CARAS and the CBC, with a special 'native performance' category.

Mel Stevenson, a pioneer in broadcasting, built the Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, B.C., radio stations and operated them until 1971. For 15 years he has operated a broadcast school in Edmonton, always with the dream of owning his own station. That dream came true and his CIBC-FM Drayton Valley

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should be officially on-air within weeks. Drayton Valley is an oil, gas, forestry, farming and ranching region southwest of Edmonton. Impatient to get up and running, Mel has already broadcast community events at low power. Operations and technical manager is **Don Soucy**. Mel's broadcast school will move in with CIBC-FM. Students will get hands-on, on-air experience during their 4-month course.

SECRET TRIALS — AND TRYING REGULATORS

Books will be written about the Karla Homolka trial and its media blackout, and perhaps laws will be rewritten. Meanwhile, without commenting on the media, I have to ask which is the greater ass: the law, for thinking it can hold back the tide, or a regulator who said that if someone complained, cable companies could be hauled on the carpet for blacking out details of the trial from U.S. stations carried in Canada.

There's also going to be a lot more said and written about courts that have swung over with a vengeance to sympathize with people with a natural desire to keep their cases private. This is a subject that's been argued about for eons. Despite the hardships that can be caused by publicity, the general conclusion is inescapable that such harm is less than the harm that can be caused when authorities start holding secret trials. It also seems to me that so far it has been the privileged who have been able to convince judges that secrecy is needed.

Still a Powerhouse: **Mike Omelus**, BN's Washington correspondent, heard a BN newscast with **Bill Marshall** at 3am, booming into Washington from CKLW Windsor. Voice supervisor **Terry Scott** figures the BN newscasts hit four provinces and 20-plus states from CKLW alone...

U.S. REPORTS UPSWING FOR RADIO

The New York Times (Dec. 28) says Standard & Poor's estimate that radio revenues for 1993 should hit a record \$9.4 billion, up 9% from '92. An industry forecast calls for faster growth to continue at least through 1997. The revenue growth reflects a new pursuit among advertisers of **cost efficiency and niche marketing**. U.S. radio stations are experimenting with format boundaries from all-children's programming to all-business or all-grunge rock. Then station reps take demographic program research to marketers who want to pay only for that market, not for mass media. The Times quotes **Les Goldberg**, president of the Interrep Radio Store: "We hadn't learned their language. They don't want to know about cost per points; **advertisers want to know how radio can fill a specific need**. Radio sales reps used to suggest to advertisers a list of stations to reach a particular demographic group at the lowest cost per M. Now, Interrep will put together a more selective package of stations with the largest number of listeners likely to buy a particular product. National advertisers are also rediscovering radio because it is creating celebrities: the AM band has been jolted back to life by **Rush Limbaugh**, **G. Gordon Liddy** and **Larry King**, hosts of talk shows that are the industry's second-fastest growing format (after country music)... The *Rush Limbaugh Show* is heard on over 600 stations daily and generates \$25 million a year in advertising revenues, or about \$3,200 a spot. Limbaugh is second only to **Paul Harvey**.

What's going on at your station... who got promoted, who left, what successful promotions have you run recently? Send it to me, c/o Broadcast News, 36 King Street East, Toronto, ON, M5C 2L9, or fax it to me at (416) 364-8896.

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PEOPLE

Atlantis Communications chairman/ CEO **Michael MacMillan** named former YTV president **Kevin Shea** as president/ COO, and **Juris Silkans**, former senior VP at CUC, as VP. Atlantis is Canada's leading independent producer specializing in TV programs... **Howard English**, a 24-year radio veteran, is Canadian rep for Broadcast Electronics of Quincy, IL. BP, North America's leading radio programming company, provides music

formats and other services to over 1,000 radio stations... At CHCH-TV Hamilton, **James B. Macdonald** is president. He succeeded **Steve Harris** who resigned as of Dec. 31. **Robert Dilworth**, a former VP at TvB, is now director of research services... CHUM Ltd. appointments: **Fred Sherratt** to executive VP and COO; **Jim Waters** to president of CHUM Radio Group; **Ron Waters** to president of CHUM Group TV; CHUMCity pres. **Moses Znaimer** adds VP, corporate development; and **Paul Gratton**, former CEO, Ontario Film Development Corp., is senior program executive at CHUM-

City... OFDC, which assisted 137 film/TV projects in 1993, named **William Mustos** as acting CEO... **Doug Avery** recently joined CKNX-FM Wingham as evening announcer. He's been in radio 13 years, (most of them as co-host with **Tom Rivers**)... Two of the five leaders to be inducted into The Canadian Business Hall of Fame for 1994 are broadcasters: **Frank A. Griffiths**, chairman and founder of WIC; and **E.S. (Ted) Rogers**, president and CEO of Rogers Communications Inc. They'll be honored at a banquet on April 7 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre... **Louis Audet** has been named president and CEO of Cogeco Inc. and Cogeco Cable Inc... Audio pioneer **Paul W. Klipsch** celebrated his 90th birthday at a January event in Las Vegas... At Magnetic Enterprises, chief financial officer **Bruce Grant** added duties as ass't. GM of Magnetic North... Appointments at Power Broadcasting include: **Daniel Tremblay** to VP/GM and **Jacques Thibault** to SM at CFZZ-FM St-Jean-sur-Richelieu; **Lee Sterry** to VP/GM and **Wayne Ens** to SM at CKDO/CKGE-FM Oshawa; **Mario Fournier** to director of marketing at CFLP/CICK-FM Rimouski, assisted by **Joel Villeneuve**; and **Malcolm Sinclair** to PD at CKRU/CKWF-FM Peterborough... Among Power's promotion directors, **Joanne Langlois** joined CKWS-TV Kingston; two others switched places: **Teresa Kazsuba** moved to Oshawa and **Tabatha Blake** took over in Peterborough... A CKWS-TV engineer for 45 years, **Dave Travers** retired... **Gerri Cook** was named by Shaw Communications to administer its \$10 million Children's Programming Initiative... Viewer's Choice promoted **Stephen Tapp** to exec. VP... Telesat Canada appointed **Brenda Primmer** to broadcast sales manager... And at YTV, **Terry Coles** is serving as interim president.

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In Memoriam

- **Bill Baker**, whose career in broadcasting began in 1924, died Dec. 21, 1993 at age 85. He was with CFRB Toronto sportscaster Wes McKnight for many years as engineer-operator, broadcasting sports events from virtually all over the world. Retiring 20 years ago, he remained an authority on the history of radio.
- **Roland Couture** passed away in St. Boniface, MB, on Dec. 1st at age 83. He was the founder of CKSB, the first French-language station in western Canada, in 1946. It became a CBC station in 1973.
- **Greg Heath**, 30, died suddenly Nov. 27, 1993, as a result of an automobile accident near Wingham. He had worked at CKNX for three years as a producer. Funeral services took place in Oshawa, Ontario.

ATLANTIC AIRWAVES

by Sandra Porteous & John Porteous

MORE POWER TO PIONEER CHSJ SAINT JOHN

We're indebted to **Bob Henry** of CHSJ Radio in Saint John, who was kind enough to fax us news of the pioneer station, which is getting set to mark its Silver Anniversary this year. "What with all the changes at CHSJ-TV and MITV," writes Henry, "It may be interesting to your readers to note that New Brunswick Broadcasting's 'Senior Service' continues not only to exist, but to grow." The station, which went on the air originally as CFBO, upped its power in mid-December to 25 kw daytime, and 10 kw night-time.

Over the years, CHSJ has had various studio locations around Saint John, including the former Admiral Beatty Hotel, a location on Church Street, and more recently in modern facilities on Crown Street. A great number of well-known announcers began their careers at CHSJ Radio including **deB. Holly** of CBC fame. **Don Messer**, who later gained fame with his 'Islanders' played on CHSJ as did nationally-known fiddler **Ned Landry**. The station was for many years part of the CBC's former Trans Canada Network; the establishment of CBD in the city ended CBC affiliation. We hope the folks at CHSJ will keep us posted of celebrations marking the anniversary as the year goes forth.

Rumours that PD **Barry Horne** would resign from NewCap's Dartmouth operations were premature. Seems NewCap asked him to stay on at CFDR, where he began his broadcasting career. Horne is known as a tough administrator in a tough business... Q-104 character **Billy Bob (Billy Phillips)** is spreading his offbeat act around between painting assignments. He recently hosted the *Country Time Show* at St. Anthony's in Dartmouth... (See *Jerry Fairbridge's* column for more news of NewCap stations CFDR/CFRQ-FM in Halifax-Dartmouth)...

Wendell Young, the Halifax-born goaltender, has been sidelined with a shoulder injury. He has been working as a TV analyst on Tampa Bay NHL television broadcasts, and doing very well according to fans who've caught his show... It's official: **Andy Moir** is the CBC's new executive producer of TV News and Current Affairs for Nova Scotia. Moir has been with the supper hour *First Edition* for more than three years as senior producer. A graduate of Brandon University, Andy has worked as host of the Winnipeg CBC morning radio show, served as senior producer for *Sunday Morning* and was one of the founding producers of *The Journal*, where he was managing editor for five years.

Longtime Moncton radio sportscaster **Marty Kingston** has exited CJMO-FM to become promotional director of The American Hockey League Moncton Hawks. The well-liked Moncton native gained his early broadcast experience at CBC Moncton, then spent several years in Toronto with CKEY's sports department. Marty is still being heard on radio and TV doing spots supporting the Hawks... **Garnet Dee** has ended a long association with CKCW/CFQM-FM Moncton and is headed back to school. Garnet's many fans will wish him well in whatever new career he chooses...

CBA Moncton recently celebrated its 25th birthday with unprecedented numbers of listeners turning out for Open

Houses held for both the *Information Morning* and *Main Street* programs. CBA had originally been located at Sackville, NB, adjacent to the CBC Shortwave facility, and was moved to Moncton in 1968. Special programming over the anniversary week featured music, interviews and reminiscences from the '60s. The station also interviewed longtime CBC Moncton employees who are still with the Corporation. **John MacMaster**, organizer of the overall celebration deserves a great deal of credit for reaching the station's audience and getting listeners involved... Also from CBC Moncton, **Michael LeBlanc**, who's director of the afternoon slot *Main Street*, reports the revamped version of the show, complete with new host **Corrine Friesen**, gained several points in the ratings...

CBC-TV Halifax has announced the appointment of **Dave Quinton** as the producer-host for *Land and Sea*, the highly-successful environmental show. A forestry student at the University of New Brunswick, Quinton graduated from Memorial University and also holds an education degree from Acadia University. CBC officials are enthused about his qualifications for the new position... The co-founder of CKBW Radio in Bridgewater, NS, **Lester L. Rogers** died at 82 following a long illness. A well-known south shore businessman, he served as CKBW's sales manager for many years.

The CBC is applying to the CRTC for an English-language stereo retransmitter for Prince Edward Island. The proposed outlet would reach virtually all the Island's residents, as well as the north shore of Nova Scotia... CIGO in Port Hawkesbury, NS, celebrated its 18th birthday recently, with more than 1000 loyal listeners showing up to mark the event. Many sponsors, listeners and friends faxed greetings to the station.

Items for Atlantic Airwaves may be sent to Sandra Porteous (for NS & NF) at 7 Centre St., Bedford, NS, B4A 2B3, Tel (902) 835-1485; or John Porteous (for NB & PEI) at 110 Pleasant St., Moncton, NB, E1A 2V2, Tel (506) 857-8133 or FAX 852-9564.

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CCBE NEWSLETTER

by Bob Findlay

The CCBE's year is off to a good start. On January 9th, we received our first request for information on CCBE membership — all the way from Hong Kong. The prospective member is Mr. **Man-Kay Koon**, who is a well qualified broadcast engineer, according to his listed qualifications.

Anik Failure Leaves Stations Scrambling

The new year got off to a very bad start for Telesat Canada. A violent magnetic storm is suspect in the interruption of service on January 20th from Anik E1. No sooner was Anik E1 stabilized when Anik E2 went out of service, and at the time of writing, the prognosis for stabilization of Anik E2 was not very good. **Dave Storey**, CCBE Membership Chairman, said the disruption of satellite service created problems for the CHCH-TV Hamilton news staff as they scrambled to find alternative means of delivery for their news services. Dave said it was necessary for CHCH to rent an uplink truck and feed some of their material to their customers via the Galaxy 6 satellite. **Bill Onn** of CJRT-FM Toronto said they were lucky in that they use TVOntario's uplink, which was moved rapidly from Anik E2 to Anik E1. And **Gerry Belanger** reported the satellite problems disrupted overnight programming at CKNX Wingham.

Upcoming Broadcasting Conventions

• **DAB Symposium:** Broadcasters face a busy month of March as they attend two major conventions. The Canadian Assn. of Broadcasters, in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Industry Canada and the European Broadcast Union, is sponsoring the second International Symposium on Digital Audio Broadcasting in Toronto from March 14-17.

A variety of technical and non-technical papers will be presented at the Symposium, and a Trade Show is planned. The preliminary program indicates that demonstrations of Digital Audio Broadcasting will likely be available.

Francois Conway of CBC Montreal will present a paper on Canadian DAB Field Trials. Three sites operating on 1452-1492 Mhz will be used to form a Single Frequency Network. There will also be tours of the new CBC Toronto Broadcast Centre.

• **NAB '94:** The other major convention will be the National Association of Broadcasters 1994 Convention, to be held in Las Vegas March 20-24. Over 64,000 people attended the 1993 NAB. The TVB Luncheon keynote speaker will be **Ray Smith**, chairman of Bell Atlantic. Smith is expected to discuss Bell Atlantic's proposed acquisition of Liberty Media and TCI, the largest U.S. cable operator.

The Digital Audio Broadcasting Symposium was scheduled to enable overseas visitors to the NAB in Las Vegas to also participate in the Toronto event.

Canadian News on Florida Television

CFCF *Pulse News* anchors **Bill Hoagland** and **Mutsumi Takahashi** now bring news from Canada to approximately 2.5 million Canadians who visit Florida every year.

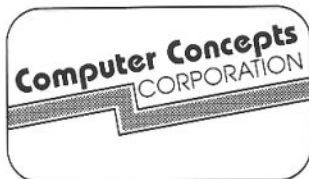
The CFCF-TV Montreal newcasts are on WFLX (Fox 29) West Palm Beach, carried throughout Southeast Florida by over 50 cable companies. Why Canadian News while on vacation? Apart from wanting to keep up with the news and sports, one can also feel that one is getting value for one's vacation dollars when one sees the less fortunate trying to exist in ungodly temperatures of -32°C (with wind-chill factors of -45°C!).

Wayne Stacey Technical Report

At the 1993 CCBE Convention **Wayne Stacey** presented his annual report from the CAB Engineering and Technology Council.

Television: On the television side, he reported that Canadian broadcasters were given a first-hand report on the recent United States activities in the realm of Advanced Television.

— continued on page 32



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WABE NEWSLETTER

by John Bruins

Believe it or not, my list of things I thought I'd never see is getting longer and longer. Things like: Radio stations going dark... Only two Progressive Conservative members in the House of Commons... And now, of all things, satellites being taken out by electromagnetic storms!... What next?

Well, for starters, CKND-TV in Winnipeg gave the boot to their 1975 RCA TCR100 and replaced it with a new Sony LMS, DVC100S. At least that could be expected. **Bob Hall** says it was a very pleasant leap forward to go from 22 bins to over 1000.

Sure sorry to hear Nortec West Ltd. has left the broadcast equipment scene. Over the years, they have shown leadership in their field and have given quality service and support to the broadcast industry. (Ed. note: *And, Jacquie reminds us, all those wonderful 'Irish Coffee' evenings at WABE conventions.*) All the best to **Bob Whitehouse**, **Chuck Laws** and the others; hope you're all back in the industry soon.

There are a few electromagnetic storms around Calgary and Edmonton too, with applications before the CRTC to build a new TV station in each city. The CRTC will no doubt listen

to some good stories from all sides on that one... On the radio side, CFXL and CFFR have reached an agreement to merge the two stations and move CFXL to the FM band.

In the January Newsletter, I promised to introduce the WABE Committee for the CAB/WABE combined convention this Fall in Winnipeg. Here they are:

President: Bob Hall

Past President: John Bruins

Secretary Treasurer: Bob Urban

Exhibitors Liaison: Bob Whitehouse

Accommodations Chairman: George Bizunis

Host Chairman: Sheila East

Papers Chairman: Jack Hoepfner

Sessions Chairman: Paul East

Member at Large: Ray Patterson

"Team spirit is what gives so many companies an edge over their competitors" — and Coach **Bob Hall** will have that team in game shape early.

Speaking of "Team Spirit"—**Todd Raymond** of the 66CFR Hockey Crew cheers for TWO teams when Winnipeg is in town! I believe he even suggest his team-mate **Dave Lloyd** work so he can watch his beloved Jets more closely... WABE has turned down a request to have 'King' **Al Pippin** preside over another Medieval Feast in Winnipeg. 'Lord' **Bruce Wilken-son** of Pippin Technical Services may have some pictures that may be worth a 'Kings' Ransom...

If you have any news for the WABE Newsletter, please jot it down and send it to me at 93 Malvern Cres., NE, Calgary, AB, T2A 5P3.

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CJVR FIRST IN CANADA WITH SCOTT STUDIOS SYSTEM

by Bayne Opseth



A view of the Production studio at CJVR in Melfort, Saskatchewan

I remember that hot, late afternoon in July, 1992. We had an impromptu meeting outside in the back parking lot, discussing the revolution in computer technology and how that is going to be a major part in ON-AIR operations in stations — the so-called 'radio station in a box'.

Almost to the day, one year later, we found ourselves part of that revolution as the installation of a hard drive storage, on-air assist system was implemented at CJVR in Melfort, Sask. We were to be the first users of the Dave Scott Studios system in Canada.

Everyone at CJVR was anxiously awaiting to see what this system could do — and what it couldn't do. We wanted a system that could adapt quite easily to our station. One aspect that we wanted, whatever the system, was that the system should adapt,



Swing announcer Todd Deveonshire in the CJVR On-Air studio. The cart machine is used for sound effects; the Denon CD players for music for special occasions.

as much as possible, to the station's operation — rather than trying to adapt the station's operation to the computer system.

The Dave Scott Studios system integrated far more easily into CJVR than we expected it to. The system works well and is learned with ease. There are really only two PCs needed to meet the actual on-air and production requirements.

Production Computer

The production computer does the recording/playback work for 'carting' spots, and also has two playback audio cards for the on-air operation.

The audio is sent to the Air Studio as audio and brought up on the console. That works well, because you are not tying up the station network or file server with large audio files. The production machine records spots and you select the category you wish to place the spot in (for example, PSAs, commercials, sweeper/liners, etc.). There is no maximum number of categories you could have, but each category can have up to 10,000 'carts' with each cart having up to 26 cuts in rotation. The audio recorded can be defaulted to set sampling rates for the quality (audio bandwidth), and whether it is in mono or stereo. These also can be altered by the keyboard as you enter information on the cart label. This makes it a little easier to watch the amount of space that you use on the hard drive. We are using a drive with 1.2 GByte storage, giving us the ability to store 10 hours of 15 kHz stereo audio. The screen resembles a cart machine giving you an indication of the status of your cart recorder, and a 'label' is located on the screen for the relevant information about the cart you are to record. You have a choice whether you want to record 'on audio' or record manually, similar to a cart machine. After recording your cut, you are able to trim both the beginning and the end of the cut should you wish to tighten or loosen it up. The EOM (End Of Message) point is user definable.

On-Air Computer

The On-Air system works really well. All major functions of the On-Air computer are available through the use of the

Touch Screen, although a track-ball, mouse, or keyboard can be used. The touch screen is the easiest. Not only does it control the events listed on the screen but it will allow the announcer to access several databases and randomly insert an event. For example, station IDs, splitters and liners are all available by touching the one you want in that particular database.

The music system is really flexible. Although the music is programmed using Music Scan, the announcer does have the option of playing a request by touching the Music part of the screen. The music database will give you three options of selecting your music: by song title, by artist (alphabetically arranged), or by song length. The Titles database is the default screen. There are ten databases that are available, so it would be possible to sort music by year, album, left-handed accordion players or whatever you wish to set up. By touching the song, the command is sent to the CD vault or jukebox. The screen then asks you where you wish to place the song within the next two to six events; default is the sixth event. When inserted, the rest of the schedule moves down.

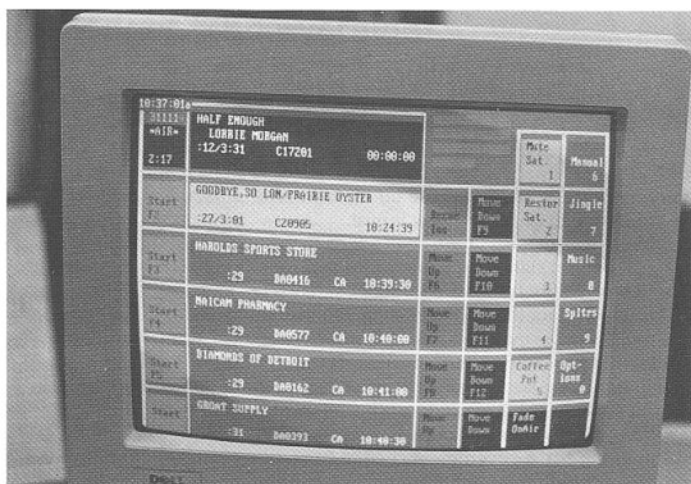
We are using the Pioneer 300 disc Autochanger; it has two players in the bottom of the unit, so if you are playing a particular disc, the next disc for play could be any one of the other 299 discs in the machine. The On-Air screen also displays a field that shows you how much time is left in the event currently running. A large countdown timer flashes at the :45- and :30-sec. points, then from :15 to :00 seconds continuously. This same counter will countdown the intro times on music selections.

On-Air Sound 'Tighter and Cleaner'

Installation was easier than I thought it would have been. We had a period of about three days where we were in transition from the old system to the new. It takes a while to dub carts over to the hard drive and fill the CD jukebox. The announcers were all familiar with the basic operation of the On-Air screen within about 15 minutes, and it took about the same amount of time to become familiar with the Production screen.

We run Country Music Radio from the Satellite Radio Network for our evening and all-night programming. The Dave Scott Studios system works well with this. We have the :04-sec. ID and :15-sec. promo spot functions off the SRN Function decoder trigger specific pins on the Control Room computer I/O board. When these pins are fired, only certain defined events are played. This prevents any problem with the local insertions being out of sync with the network programming time-wise. In other words, we won't take a 3-min. commercial break when we're supposed to be taking a :04-second ID. At 9 pm, we leave Country Music radio to play our 75 minutes of daily religious programming, then return to satellite.

In summary, we are very happy with the system. It takes a lot of the hassle of picking music and carts away from the announcer, who now can spend more time concentrating on his show or talking to listeners on the phone. The On-Air sound is tighter and cleaner, and without the frustration of



Close-up showing On-Air screen for Dave Scott Studio System at CJVR.

sound is tighter and cleaner, and without the frustration of wobbly carts and carts that cue through. It certainly has improved the sound and efficiency of CJVR.

Bayne Opseth is chief engineer at CJVR Melfort, Sask. Photos are by Jim Williamson, CJVR promotions manager. BT welcomes articles detailing new broadcast installations across Canada.

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"So that, in retrospect, is how I got into the communications business and spent most of my life in it."

As he looked back at his achievements in the sports field, Len said, "I had a feel for sports. Hockey News was a business that was developing and I really enjoyed it. When Phillippe bought Telemedia he also inherited the Montreal Expos Radio broadcasts, which at that time were not very successful. We turned into a very rewarding network, and subsequently did the same thing with the Toronto Blue Jays."

To Len, the outlook for the Blue Jays was one he predicted as top level. "No question," he said, "that baseball in Toronto was going to be a success — and the Blue Jays games would be something that most broadcasters would want to carry. In television terms, the broadcasts were off-prime time in radio. It was only a matter of time before the Blue Jays broadcasts would turn a healthy profit, as they do today."

The network is most successful, and is one in which Len Bramson took a highly major creative part. "I didn't touch television. Only radio. Radio is my specialty. I enjoyed my time in radio especially because I was one of the few people who knew how to network radio. Most station owners and managers didn't want to get involved too much so, with some very qualified people on my team, they let me build the network and hire Tom and Jerry, who are still there".

This time was one of the highlights of Len's business life. "Working with the Toronto Blue Jays and the associates I developed was a very inspiring time for me".

Radio Needs to "Create Sales Opportunities"

Looking at radio today, Len recognizes that most stations are having a very difficult time because of the down-turn in advertising. "But I think there's still room for good programming. I feel there's a lot to be desired in some of the programming that some stations do. Also, I think that most stations have neglected putting together really strong sales organizations. Ones that can create the kind of sales opportunities for clients, the way we used to. That's where the industry's problem lies. Radio is not going to go away; I believe that solid management, coupled with solid sales organizations and good programming, will still bring healthy profits for a radio station."

When he came to First Choice it was an 8-year-old company. "It was the first pay movie network on the air in Canada. It was successful back then, as it still is. It needed new management to work under André Bureau, with whom I had worked 20 years ago at Telemedia. André is a very strong executive in the communications business. While he is very demanding, he is also a tremendous man to work for."

Len — who had worked at three jobs in order to reach his goal — was asked if he felt that today's young people had the same determination. "Certain young people don't have the same opportunities that we had 20 or 25 years ago. Today there is not really a good business environment, and there's a lot of really talented people out there who just need a chance. We see many who want to get into the production side of movies and that's very difficult — even in good times that's a tough business to crack."

With his largely radio background what knowledge did Len bring to the movie business? Admittedly, he knew nothing about production. "What I did understand, was how to advance businesses through sales and operations. I think those are the most important areas of good management".

Looking at how The Movie Network progressed since he became its president three years ago, Len said, "We haven't

grown. When I got here things were rolling along just fine. But a combination of factors created problems for this business. We are still successful in terms of our profits. There's a lot more competition now in terms of how do we grow through cable operators who are the key to our business.

"In the movie business, as good as it is in terms of the product that's out there, there's so much competition now and there's so few dollars in the pockets of the consumers that you really have to fight to get subscribers. We're still a healthy business with a growing future and the development of new services. We look forward to the development of digital compression, which will allow us to do a lot more things with our service than we are doing now. For the next short while, technology is going to determine how fast we can grow. Hollywood is turning out some good products and the Canadian industry is developing with some fine producers such as Alliance and Atlantis. They can compete with the best. Despite the general bad times, I think we have been the last on the totem pole to be hurt."

The day will come when Len will officially retire but, he said, "I don't believe retirement is something where you stay home and say, 'What am I going to do today?' I don't believe in that. I don't think you can play golf every day or read books all day. I have spent a lot of time in a lot of different facets of the communications business. So I think I have something to offer the industry, maybe not full time. Also I know the sports business pretty well, I know how to negotiate. So I think there's something I can offer."

In his newest role as Corporate VP of the Astral Broadcasting Group, Len will have much to offer. He'll be working closely with its President and CEO, André Bureau, in developing new projects for The Movie Network and Canal Première/Viewer's Choice Canada.

Looking back at his versatile career, Len thinks of how he has enjoyed the communications industry that he wanted so much to enter.

In turn, one can see, the communications industry has welcomed and enjoyed the talents of Len Bramson. PS

BROADCAST BEAT

Down But Not Out: After losing its prominent role in covering football, CBS Inc. has scored with a \$375 million deal for U.S. rights to the 1998 Winter Olympics. They'll be held in Nagano, Japan... New members of the CAB's Half Century Club include **Jack Daly, Vin Dittmer, Gordon Garrison, Leonard Gilbert, Paul Hanover, Dwayne Johns and Gordon Pearcy.** (All being well, we'll make in 1998)... *Money and Politics:* The Bitove Group's Toronto NBA franchise is on hold as Premier **Bob Rae** insists basketball be included in Ontario's Pro-Line lottery — projected to bring in \$100 million a year by 1995. NBA says it won't grant the franchise under these terms. Supporting NBA are Major League Baseball, the NFL and NHL, who want baseball, football and hockey also eliminated from the lottery. Standard Broadcasting's **Allan Slaughter** is part of the Bitove Group, along with former premier **David Peterson**, whose Liberal government was defeated by Rae's NDP in the last provincial election... Telefilm Canada says that its budget for film and TV production will be reduced by a total of \$116.5 million over the next 5 years... In the station's early days, **Josh King** was MC of the western show *CHUM Valley*. When he left, we heard he'd gone to Hollywood, but lost track of him.

When we went to see *The Joy Luck Club*, there in the credits was Josh King as assistant director... **Elwy Yost** celebrated 20 years as host of TVO's enduring *Saturday Night at the Movies*... **Marlane Oliver** left CFRB for 680 News in Toronto... When **Bruce Garvey** returned to Canada, Global News replaced him in London with **Neil Lundy**... In Florida, Selkirk is offering a French-Canadian Pay-TV service, *Bonjour Media*... At CTV, **Gary Bonnel** became director of sports sales/marketing and **David Ballingall** is news marketing manager... We were happy to hear that former Humber student **Gary Roberts**, after a dozen years in radio, had launched Roberts Media Service in Guelph... And Humber grad **Mike Inglis**, earlier with The Fan, is now with CFRB Toronto... **Mel Cooper** and staff rate applause for the outstanding C-FAX promotional publication *Best of Victoria*... The Sports Network plans to move from crowded quarters on Leslie St. to a new 5-storey broadcast centre on Sheppard East... **Maurice Godin** of *Cafe Americain* is a 1980 graduate of

Ryerson's theatre program... Former CRTC commissioner **Bev Oda** succeeded **Phyllis Yaffe** as chair of FUND... Gone from CBC Radio's *Fresh Air* are host **Peter Downey** and entertainment reporter **Sheila Shotton**. New host is **Tom Allen**... Look for BBM to increase its TV rating for Toronto from 10 weeks to 27... **Dani Eisler** is now director of network services for Pelmorex Radio at its Mississauga HQ... **Norm Bolen** was named director of CBC's Ontario Region... Good read for TV News people: **Eric Burns' Broadcast Blues**... From CKVR-TV in Barrie, **Marlene Lone-Studley** tells us that their Total News division presents two hours of news/info weekday mornings. *Newsworld* is anchored by **Gail Smith**... Our thanks to friend **Duff Roman** and exec. director **Heather Sym** for the update on FACTOR, which does so much to assist Canadian talent...

Note: Please update your Mailing Lists! Phil Stone's new address is: 1 Clark Avenue West, Apt. 1703, Thornhill, ON, L4J 7Y6.

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BT APPOINTMENT



Keith Laverty

Broadcast + Technology welcomes Keith G. Laverty Associates Inc. as sales representative.

Originally from Montreal, Keith Laverty came to Ontario in 1978. For over 15 years, he has worked in the sales/marketing/advertising field with leading Canadian manufacturers.

For the past ten years, Keith G. Laverty Associates has represented a number of top industrial trade magazines serving both the English and French-language markets in Canada.

Keith's forte is in developing effective new marketing ideas and innovations. He already is involved with the industry and is working with many of BT's ever-growing list of advertisers.

CHCH-TV APPOINTMENT



James B. Macdonald

Don Smith, President & Chief Executive Officer of Westcom TV Group, is pleased to announce the appointment of James B. Macdonald as president & CEO of CHCH-TV. Mr. Macdonald also assumes responsibilities for the Second City Specialty Television application, a partnership between Second City, John Candy and WIC.

James Macdonald brings nearly 20 years of experience in the entertainment industry. Prior to joining CHCH, he held senior management positions within Rogers Broadcasting Limited.

CHCH, owned by WIC Western International Communications Inc., serves Toronto, Hamilton and most of Southern Ontario, and is also seen nationwide by cable subscribers via Canadian Satellite Communications Inc. (Cancom).

WIC owns eight television stations in Canada. WIC also owns Allarcorn Pay Television Limited, which operates Superchannel. Allarcorn is also the licensee in Western Canada for a recently launched pay-per-view service, Home Theatre, and owns 5% of the Family Channel Inc.

WIC holdings include 11 radio stations in Canada, as well as 51% of Cancom.

WIC is the only Canadian communications company with a major presence in traditional broadcasting and satellite network services.

BROADCAST BUSINESS

• **Atlantic Broadcast Communications** has named Carrie Besner as manager of its new Cornwall office and RF specialist. Carrie received her diploma from the St. Lawrence College Electronic Engineering program on Feb. 5th... Debi Yorke advises that ABC does not represent Continental; ABC now represents the TTC line of FM transmitters... • **Audio Distributor Int'l.**, a new firm in Montreal, was named exclusive Canadian distributor for **Genelec** studio monitoring systems. ADI regional SMs are Gerald DaSylva (Québec & East), Chris Tootell (Ont.) and Rob Hewes (West)... • **Astral** plans to open a new plant in Montreal this year to produce 12 million CDs a year. A similar facility opens in Florida this month... • **Broadcast Programming** acquired **Bonneville**, its major competitor... • **Cabletek** appointed two district reps: Mike Eadie (Ontario) and Stuart Lorrinan (Atlantic)... • **Custom Business Systems's** Ira Apple returns as SM for Canada. Based in Maryland, he retains his U.S. territory... • **Davicom Technologies Inc.** appointed J.L. Yerly of Ottawa as Ontario rep., opening an office at 500 Van Buren St. in Kemptville, (613) 258-2993... • **DECADE** of Sherbrooke, Québec, founded in 1991 by partners Michel Carrier and Sylvain Couture, says it is Canada's only active manufacturer of low power FM transmitters — mainly for real estate, tourism, concerts, theatres, etc. Decade's innovation has been recognized by the Québec government, and last year Larry O'Malley became marketing manager... • **Leitch** reports its logo generator has enjoyed 'huge success' and is used by the **CBC** and all three major U.S. networks; **TSN** has ordered 110 VSM-6800 DAs... • **Sony of Canada** and **Rogers Broadcasting** have begun a 5-year program to phase in Sony's digital component technology at CFMT-TV Toronto.

Dave 2000 System Inexpensive, Flexible

First of a Series of Articles by Owen Mekitarian

On one of those typical Monday mornings I arrived at work to find the three-deck cart machine in AM Master Control making strange noises. It was making those familiar dying gasps. I felt that this was a good time to look into alternative methods for playing commercials to air.

As the three-deck is an important part of our satellite automation time, for IDs etc., I found it to be a very limited method, restricting our overnight broadcast to three carts with the same thing playing each time on air.

A fully computerized automation system for this station is in the planning stages, hopefully to go on-air before the end of next year. In the meantime, I needed an inexpensive, but flexible replacement to tide us over. Keeping in mind the cost of a three-deck as the amount of money I wanted to spend right now, I started looking at what was out there on the market.

I found a simple easy-to-use newsroom audio editing system with playback-to-air capability called "DAVE 2000". This unit was originally designed for use in newsrooms, but after I took a closer look at the system I felt that it would work for my purpose with just a few modifications. I contacted the people at AVR and discussed this with them. They felt that the modifications were not a problem. A short time later I received the modified software. The DAVE 2000 did not need any changes on the input waveform editor. In fact, the waveform editor turned out to be a very welcome addition in the production room for both our AM and FM operations. All the required modifications were on the output-to-air unit. The original output was all from one playlist. This playlisting was increased to a maximum of 8 active playlists (configurable from a menu set-up section).

The people at AVR then had a remote card for the computer built which would allow the computer to accept dry contact closures to trigger each of the playlists to play the next cut automatically. The cuts or tracks in each playlist can be grouped into blocks of varying lengths to fit the windows provided by the satellite automation.

This particular station uses the SRN service which provides up to 8 contact closures. Each of these momentary closures can be matched to one of the playlists in the DAVE system.

We ended up with a computerized, programmable system for our overnight, which has now become a commercially viable time period. And it requires just a few extra minutes per day to program the unit. To top it all off, it was accomplished for about the same cost as a good three-deck cart machine.

This is the first in a series of articles on automation systems by Owen G. Mekitarian. Owen is Technical Director of Tri-Co Broadcasting Ltd., CJSS/CFLG-FM Cornwall, Ontario.