

Bob Hagen's Induction into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame

Acceptance speech delivered on Bob's behalf by Lee Harris

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

October 1, 2005.



You would have to have a pretty good memory to recall Bob Hagen on the air in northeast Ohio - not because his career was obscure - far from it.

Bob worked for the big stations in Akron and Cleveland - bigger stations back then of course - radio was in the important ways a bigger business then.

WADC- WHKK - WHK-WERE- KYW - Bob worked for them all. But it was 40 years ago this year that Bob left town - and he took the biggest radio station in town with him.

He was news director at KYW when that bizarre switch with Philadelphia happened - it's a long story of course - many of you probably know it - but in summary KYW wound up in Philly and so did Bob....he went on to

Chicago and eventually New York where he worked for nearly 30 years...wrapping up as my co-anchor on mornings on 1010 WINS - where we did what was then and what is now still the most listened to morning radio show in the U-S.

And yes it was New York and Bob knew his way around the place as well as any reporter - but there was always a touch of Ohio in Bob's work.

And here's a little secret - well maybe it's not so secret - some of the greatest radio New York has ever heard can be traced right back to here.

You know about Alan Freed of course, perhaps Pete Meyers, Scott Muni, but there were so many others who brought a touch of America - the mainland to the chaos of New York - and this was especially true of the newsmen at the big stations in New York - they used to talk about a Cleveland Mafia - running New York radio.

Well Bob was a made man - he brought a clear, Midwestern voice to New York- - and combined that with an approach to news that was about hard work, not about show biz - as far as Bob Hagen knew there was only one way to do the job - you worked to get your story - you worked to make sure it was right - you worked to make sure it was fair - and you didn't make a big deal

about that - its just what you did.

These are all things he learned to do working in Akron and in Cleveland and they served him well in New York and served the audience well.

Not to say that what he did was light on style - he was a master at the use of sound in a story - and he could say more in the 45 seconds that WINS allotted for a top story than most of his colleagues could get across in 3 full minutes.

I am not sure what he would have made of your decision to induct him into the Hall. There are a lot of people in NewYork who ran away from where they're from and they deny their roots. Bob didn't run away - fortune and hard work brought him to New York, and he was always happy to tell you where he came from.