

HISTORY OF LINCOLN GARRARD BROADCASTING COMPANY

Ownership

Local radio came to Lincoln County when WRSL-AM went on the air on November 1, 1961, the station's call letters represented the first initials of each of the four owners: W.G. Morgan, Ray Doss, S.C. Bybee, and Lanier Burchett. In 1962, the license and other assets were transferred to the partners' corporation, Lincoln-Garrard Broadcasting Company, Inc. The four men remained shareholders of Lincoln-Garrard Broadcasting Company, Inc. until May, 1965, when Calvin C. Smith and Lanier Burchett each obtained 50% of the shares. Calvin C. Smith and Lanier Burchett remained shareholders until August 1969, when Calvin C. Smith acquired the shares held by Lanier Burchett. After selling his interest in WRSL, Lanier Burchett left radio and entered banking with Farmers Deposit Bank in Eminence, Kentucky. Lanier is now deceased.

Calvin C. Smith owned and operated the stations until November 1, 1976, when he entered into an operating/purchase agreement with James M. Gaskin and Rubyann Cooper Gaskin. Jim Gaskin came to Stanford after selling his interest in WIRV, Irvine, Kentucky. The Gaskins operated the stations, under Smith's ownership, until January 1982 when Smith resumed the day-to-day operations. Jim Gaskin died May 3, 2008.

Smith then operated the stations from January 1982 until February 1987, when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and subsequently died on November 15, 1987. His widow, Ruth C. Smith, took over 100% ownership of Lincoln-Garrard Broadcasting Company, Inc., and operated the stations until 1994.

In 1994, Jonathan L. Smith, the present owner and son of Calvin C. Smith and Ruth Smith

entered into an agreement with his mother to purchase Lincoln-Garrard Broadcasting Company, Inc. Ruth Smith died in December, 2003.

Facilities

WRSL-AM, a 500 watt daytime-only station on 1520 kHz in Stanford, Kentucky, went on the air November 1, 1961. The station's tower and studio were built on land belonging to W.G. Morgan on Highway 27 North of Stanford. WRSL-AM has been upgraded and moved to a location in Lily, Kentucky and has an FCC Construction Permit to operate in Corbin, Kentucky.

In April 1966, Lincoln-Garrard Broadcasting Company, Inc., applied for a construction permit for an FM station in Stanford. The application was granted in July 1966 and WRSL-FM went on the air in May, 1967, operating with an effective radiated power of 3,000 watts on 95.9 MHz at 85 feet above average terrain. In February, 1995 Lincoln-Garrard Broadcasting Company, Inc., was granted a construction permit for WRSL-FM to change frequency of operation to 96.3 MHz with an effective radiated power of 12,500 watts at 472 feet above average terrain. In July, 2001, the call sign was changed to WXYK-FM. The station was sold to Educational Media Foundation in November, 2006. The station is now operated as a listener-supported, non-commercial station.

In August, 2007, Lincoln Garrard Broadcasting Company entered into an Option and Purchase Agreement and Local Marketing Agreement with radio icon Randy Michaels' RadioActive LLC for WPBK-FM (102.9), Crab Orchard and WKFC-FM (101.9), North Corbin (in a deal brokered by Jay Meyers).

The Smith Family

Calvin C. Smith was born in Manchester, Kentucky, on June 14, 1932. While in his

Freshman year at Eastern Kentucky State University, Smith met his wife, Janie Ruth Coffey, of Renfro Valley, Kentucky. The two were married on July 29, 1951. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce and a Teacher's Certificate in June, 1954. She got her "MRS" degree and started raising the family the of six children.

Also, while at Eastern Kentucky State University, he participated in the R.O.T.C., and was called to active duty on July 17, 1954. It was in the Army that he first became interested in Radio and Communications while serving as the 759th Field Artillery Batallion's Communications Officer and acting Executive Officer of Headquarters Battery. He was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on April 16, 1956, having attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

After his discharge, Smith wanted to teach high school business and coach basketball (naturally, being a native of basketball crazy Clay County, Kentucky). However, he discovered that he could not support a wife and two children, Calvin Lynn, born October 23, 1953 and David Lee, born October 28, 1955, on the salary of a high school basketball coach.

In considering his options, Smith decided that he had an interest in radio. His first job in radio was as a sales representative at WFTG in London, Kentucky in the summer of 1956. Being able to sell only one contract his first week, he decided that he would seek further training and education in commercial radio.

So, in order to support his family and go to school, he took a job in September, 1956, working days as a management trainee in the home office of the Western-Southern Life Insurance Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, and enrolled in night school at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Radio-T.V. Department, on the G.I. Bill. He continued working days at Western-Southern Life

Insurance Company and taking night courses until November 10, 1956, when a new AM station (WWXL) went on the air in his hometown of Manchester, Kentucky. He took a job at WWXL as an Announcer and Bookkeeper. While working at Western-Southern Life Insurance Company and going to school at night, Smith was earning \$110.00 per week. Even though the entry level job at WWXL paid only \$45.00 per week, Smith was happy to be working in radio and, moreover, working in his hometown of Manchester, Kentucky where he could live in property owned by his grandparents and keep his expenses low. It was not long before Smith moved into a management position and was earning as much as he did with his life insurance job.

By April 1957, he was promoted to station manager and was loaned money by the other shareholders to purchase five of the 300 shares of stock in the station. Thus, his first ownership interest in a radio station was 1.6% of WWXL.

In November, 1957, he was offered and accepted a position with WMLF in Pineville, Kentucky. In January, 1958, he was made manager of WMLF. When WMLF was sold in November, 1958, he was offered a position as announcer and salesman, but for less money than he was making as manager. So, he left in November, 1958, and took a job with WTLO in Somerset, Kentucky, as an announcer, salesman and bookkeeper.¹ It was in Somerset that Smith's third son, Phillip Layne, was born on January 1, 1959.

He stayed at WTLO until November, 1959, when he took a better paying job with WBVL in Barbourville, Kentucky. The job at WBVL involved mostly selling in Manchester, London, Pineville and Middlesboro. Wanting to be more involved in the operation aspect and less in the sales

¹When Smith was at WTLO, the staff at WSFC in Somerset used to joke that WTLO stood for "Women's Toilet Ladies Only". Smith would respond that WTLO stood for "We're Taking Layman Over". Mike Layman was owner of WSFC.

aspect, he took back his old job at WTLO in April, 1960.

While at WTLO, Smith, along with Hubert Turner and Floyd Turner, was granted a construction permit for a new AM station at Tazewell, Tennessee. As such, Smith left WTLO again and moved to Tazewell, Tennessee, in June, 1960, to build and operate WNTT. In January 1961, once that WNTT was established, Smith sold his 1/3 interest in the station and planned to use the profit to finance the purchase of his own station.

While looking for a station to purchase, Smith worked as a sportscaster and announcer at WFTM in Maysville, Kentucky, from January 1961 to May 1961. In May, 1961, Smith moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in order to study for and take the Radio-Telephone First Class License test. After receiving his First Class license in June, 1961, he helped install and test a new AM Directional Pattern station in Corbin, Kentucky (WYGO). After WYGO went on the air in November 1961, Smith worked there as announcer, salesman and engineer until June 1962.

Then, in June 1962, he went to work at WMRI in Marion, Indiana as an announcer and salesman. He left WMRI in October, 1962 when he was offered a better paying job at WKOY in Bluefield, West Virginia. After three months, he left WKOY, in January, 1963, when he was offered the position of General Manager at WYGO in Corbin, Kentucky. As an incentive, he was promised a share of the sales proceeds, provided that he could operate WYGO at a level of profitability that would attract a buyer. From January 23, 1963 until it was sold on May 1, 1965, Smith worked diligently as General Manager, Announcer and Salesman to increase the station's revenues. With his modest share of the sales proceeds from WYGO, Smith was ready, more than ever, to purchase his own radio station.

Through the grapevine, Smith finally found his station to purchase when he heard that

WRSL, Stanford, Kentucky, was for sale. He met with one of the owners, W.G. Morgan, once in Corbin and then in Somerset to finalize the deal and on May 17, 1965, he entered into a contract to purchase WRSL, along with co-owner Lanier Burchett. Three months later, on October 14, 1965, Smith's fourth son, Jonathan Logan, was born.

In September 1967, while he owned WRSL-AM/FM, Smith purchased WPHN, Liberty, Kentucky. Eleven months later on August 23, 1968, his fifth son, Joseph Lanier, was born. He later changed the call letters of WPHN to WKDO and sold the station, in 1972, to his General Manager, Carlos Wesley. Carlos died February 26, 2010.

In August, 1969, Lanier Burchett expressed a desire to sell his one half interest in WRSL. Burchett wanted a job with a retirement plan and better benefits. After selling his interest to Smith, Burchett took a job with Farmers Deposit Bank in Eminence, Kentucky. At this point, Smith owned 100% of WRSL-AM, WRSL-FM and WKDO.

While visiting with Carlos and Louise Wesley after the birth of the Wesley's daughter, Carla, Smith told Ruth that it was time for the Smith family to have a daughter. Approximately nine months later, on July 28, 1970, Amy Lu Smith was born as the only daughter of Calvin and Ruth Smith.

In November, 1976, Smith entered into an operating/purchase agreement with James M. Gaskin and Rubyann Cooper Gaskin for WRSL AM/FM. During the time that the Gaskins operated WRSL AM/FM, Smith continued to live in Stanford, Kentucky, and commuted to Frankfort, Kentucky, where he worked in state government. From 1977 to 1980 he worked as an Investment Officer for State Treasurer Frances Jones Mills. When Ms. Mills was elected as Secretary of State, Smith worked with her in that office as an Administrative Assistant. After leaving the Secretary of

State's office, Smith made an unsuccessful bid for State Representative of a District that was comprised of parts of Lincoln, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties.

In 1977, Smith, along with his longtime friend and consulting engineer John Cunningham, purchased WCPT-TV in Crossville, Tennessee. After six years of absentee ownership, Smith sold his interest in the station to Cunningham in 1983.

Calvin Smith also filed applications with the Federal Communications Commission for construction permits that were never granted, usually because he would withdraw his application in settlement with a competing party. In 1964, he was party to an application for an FM Construction Permit in Manchester, Kentucky; in May, 1967, he was party to an application for an AM Construction Permit in Springfield, Kentucky and an application for an FM Construction Permit in Falmouth, Kentucky; and in June, 1967, he was party to applications for both AM and FM Construction Permits in London, Kentucky.

It is impossible to discuss the Smith family without mentioning Arvil "Plow" Jones. When Calvin C. Smith was growing up on Paces Creek in Clay County, Kentucky, one of his neighbors was Arvil Jones, whom was nicknamed Plow. Plow, five years younger than Smith, was stricken with polio at a very young age and walked with the aid of crutches.

Plow's first job was at WWXL in Manchester when Calvin C. Smith hired him as an announcer. Plow later would work for Smith in Corbin, Stanford and Liberty. He also worked at WFTG, London, Kentucky and WBVL, Barbourville, Kentucky.

However, it was in Stanford that Plow settled down with his wife and raised a family of three children. Plow worked at WRSL for nearly 30 years. Plow started at WRSL in August, 1965 and worked there until his death on March 5, 1995.

Plow was a likeable, friendly and positive person who, just like Calvin C. Smith, exemplified the Eastern Kentucky mountain beliefs and standards of being a good person, good neighbor and good citizen. His personality was well suited for being a radio announcer and his disability never became an impediment to his responsibilities. For many years, he served as Station Manager, as well as announcer, under Calvin Smith at WRSL.

Personnel

Some of the most prominent alumni of WRSL are David Bratcher, Byron Crawford and Barry Peel. David Bratcher later became Mason Dixon on WAKY Radio. While in school at Stanford High School, Byron worked a variety of jobs at WRSL including news, sports and announcing. Byron was an award winning columnist with the Louisville Courier Journal newspaper after working at WCKY, WHAS and WAKY.

Barry Peel is a native of Lancaster, Kentucky, which is just north of Stanford. Barry broke into broadcasting with his first job at WRSL. Barry went on to become a respected and recognized reporter and anchor for WTVQ-TV in Lexington and then for WKYT-TV. Barry has also spoken fondly of his early days at WRSL.

The following is a list of persons who have worked for or appeared on the air for Lincoln Garrard Broadcasting Company:

Anna Lee Atkins; Debbie Baird; Kevin Bandura; Bobby Benningfield; Larry Berry; Steve Bertram; Terri Bertram; Dave Bratcher; Ron Bullock; Lanier Burchett; Randy Burchfield, Billy Keith Bussell; Dave Colvin; Cindy Conley, Joanne Cooper; Byron Crawford; Ronnie Deatherage; Jennifer DeShon; Dick Diamond; Billy Ray Eden; Sherry Franklin, Jim Gaskin; Rubyann Cooper Gaskin; Tim Gipson; Bob Glover; Sandy Gooch; Patricia Goode; Tim Hall; Glenn Harris; Tom Hurt; Darrell Farley; Rick Godbey; H.B. Johnson; Rick Johnson; Arvil "Plow" Jones; Jeff Jones; Ray Kidd; Norbert King; Hugh Kirkpartick; Renee Knies; Walt Knies; Mike Majors; Eddie May; Jennifer McCracken, Herschel McKinnley; Shafer Messenger; Mary Middleton; Chris Moore; Dale Moore; Keith Mullins; Kevin Nunemaker; Larry Nunemaker; Phil Osborne; Albert Owens; Buddy Pardue; Barry Peel; Phil Pendleton; Jayme Phillips, Betty Powell; Ray Ramsey; Buddy Sallee; Calvin C.

Smith; Calvin L. Smith; David L. Smith; Jonathan L. Smith; Joseph L. Smith; Phillip L. Smith; Ruth Smith; Monica Terry; Melvin Thompson; Rick Wayne; Michael Wiser, Junior Whittaker; Andy Wills; Darren Yaden;