

One Man, One Vision

Mexico, Missouri, never saw the likes of him.

Before or since. That's where an enterprising young fellow by the name of Dick Harris took his wife Lynne and their baby in the early 1950's to start a career in radio broadcasting.

Fresh from grad school at The University of Missouri, Dick was full of big ideas about what life in the radio business would hold. And Dick got to hold just about everything but a broom once he got to the radio station that had taken a flier on him.

The owner liked what he got. Dick sold his pants off and did everything else but deliver the signal door-to-door. He worked hard, paid the rent, and thought about maybe moving up to a bigger market. Sooner seemed better than later.

Back Then

Recall this was radio in the 1950's. Most people were saying eulogies for the medium that had been left for dead by television. But Dick saw radio coming back, and sooner than most people imagined. He ambled on. Awhile as part-owner of a small station group in the midwest and southwest. A few years with Storz Broadcasting and the legendary Todd Storz.

It was during this time that radio was reinventing itself, becoming a wholly new, distinctly local medium. Dick lived the rebirth and transformation. And helped make it so.

More Harris children were arriving (there'd eventually be Randy and Cindy, Brian, Kenny and Leslie for Dick and Lynne to pack into the station wagon).

Go Westinghouse, Young Man

In Minneapolis now, Dick was building a solid reputation in the business. He attracted the attention of folks at Westinghouse Broadcasting in New York.

Soon Dick was on his way to Boston as the new General Manager of one of Westinghouse's heritage radio stations . . . legendary WBZ. He was a little overwhelmed. For about an hour, they say.

Dick ran WBZ, then went to KYW in 1965 to turn it into Philadelphia's first all-news station. From there to Chicago . . . to run WIND . . . then out to

