

1979 IN REVIEW

TOP-40

John Leader

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Sherman is promoted from PD to Assistant GM at KJRB/Spokane... Jim Brown returns to WOKY/Milwaukee as PD, leaving his newly attained position of National Promotion Director for Ariola Records... Bobby Rich exits as PD of 99X/New York amid rumors the station will abandon Top 40 in favor of Pop/Adult... Mark



Jim Brown

McKay returns to KFRC/San Francisco and his WRKO/Boston PD post is filled by the man he replaced when he originally moved to Boston, Harry Nelson. Harry returns to WRKO from his Assistant PD's slot at KFRC. This was a straight player deal, no cash...



Mark McKay

JULY: The entire WAVZ/New Haven staff and format segue over to WKCI/New Haven (WAVZ's FM) and kick off with a new identity of KC101... Don Kelly moves from WFYR/Chicago to become the new PD of 99X/New York... John Mack Flanagan resigns at KFRC/San Francisco, leaving an opening in afternoon drive... Tim Byrd steps down as PD of WZZP/Cleveland but remains on the air as afternoon jock... Dan Steele resigns after only three months as PD of KTSA/San Antonio. Unable to sell his home in Harrisburg (he was last PD of WKBO/Harrisburg) near Three Mile Island, he is forced to return to Pennsylvania... Mike Scott is named to replace Steele as PD of KTSA & sister FM, KTFM... Raandy Kabrich exits WZZP/Cleveland, where he had been MD... Jim Fox does a quick turnaround and returns to Q102/Cincinnati as PD, resigning after less than three months as PD of KAUM/Houston. Q102 PD Mark Elliott moves to Y95/Tampa as PD... Ron Parker leaves WLCY/Tampa... WMEE/Ft. Wayne pulls a WAVZ-like switch, moving the staff and format over to sister-FM, WMEF, changing the FM's call-letters to WMEE, and switching the AM's calls to WQHK and the AM format to Country... TEN-Q/Los Angeles stops rocking and becomes all-Spanish at 12noon on the last day of July...

AUGUST: Glenna Morgan resigns as PD of WABC. Rick Sklar, VP of Programming for ABC Radio, takes over the day-to-day programming duties at the station... Bob Peyton is upped from PD to GM at KELP/EI Paso... Ken Dennis resigns as PD of KLAZ-AM-FM/Little Rock... Jay Cook resigns as PD of WFIL/Philadelphia, a position he held for 13 years, to become National Program Manager for Combined Communications... Al Lohman & Roger Bartley, KFI/Los Angeles's morning team, celebrate 16 years together... Don Iruk returns to WNBC/New York



Glenn Morgan



Jay Cook

as morning man, exiting WHK/Cleveland, where he had been doing afternoons... Steve West moves from Assistant GM of KJR/Seattle to General Manager for KJR's FM, KISW... Andy Barber exits KULF/Houston to accept the PD's job at KASH/Eugene... Bill McCown becomes PD at WAIM/Anderson, literally right a-

cross the street from his former station, WANS... Tim Sullivan resigns as GM of KHJ/Los Angeles to become GM for KHTZ/Los Angeles when new KHTZ owners Greater Media take possession of station in September. RKO Radio President Dwight Case takes



Tim Sullivan



Don Iruk

over as KHJ GM... Jim Quinn leaves 13Q/Pittsburgh... London & Engleman exit KULF/Houston, where they had been the morning team... Ken Curtis resigns as PD of WLEE/Richmond... J.B. Barron becomes KFRC/San Francisco's new afternoon man. SEPTEMBER: Bobby Rich is named as KHTZ/Los Angeles PD, confirming rumors widely circulated on both coasts... Gary Firth signs on as KAUM/Houston's PD, exiting KUPD/Phoenix... Jeff Lucifer becomes PD at KSFM/Sacramento under the consultancy of Jerry Clifton... Tim Byrd resigns at WZZP/Cleveland, announcing no immediate future plans. Dickie Shannon is quickly imported from WSAI/Cincinnati to fill "The Byrdman's" PM-drive slot in Cleveland... Gary Berkowitz leaves PRO-FM/Providence to become PD at WROR/Boston... The Greaseman signs a five-year contract to continue as WAPE/Jacksonville's morning man for a reported \$800,000 figure!... John Driscoll segues from KPPL/Denver to become PD at KYGO/Denver... Hudson & Harrigan (actually Mark Stevens & Jim Pruett) resign as the morning team at KILT/Houston. Inter-



Bobby Rich



Gary Berkowitz

estingly, the station owns the names "Hudson & Harrigan" and announces plans to replace Stevens & Pruett with a new "Hudson & Harrigan"... M.G. Kelly returns to radio as night jock for KHJ/Los Angeles, and within three weeks, exits radio again "for good"... Al Brady is named PD for WABC/New York, exiting as PD of WRQX/Washington. Alan Burns is promoted within ABC from his MD's post at WLS/Chicago to PD of WRQX... John Lander moves West, accepting the PD's job at KGB-AM/San Diego... KDWB-AM-FM/Minneapolis end their long-held simulcast, with the FM taking the identity of K101-FM and a slightly AOR/Top 40 approach... True Don Bleu is out at KHJ/Los Angeles... Shaune McNamara is promoted to MD at KHJ... Bobby Hatfield, formerly of WNP/Indianapolis, becomes Assistant PD at WAKY/Louisville...



Al Brady

OCTOBER: Bob Laurence is promoted to National Program Director for Mariner Communications. Bob appoints KBEQ/Kansas City Promotion Director Bobby Kline as KBEQ's new PD... Spanky resigns at WAYS/Charlotte to join the jock staff at B100/San Diego... Jim

Quinn, formerly of 13Q/Pittsburgh, joins the lineup at WTAE/Pittsburgh... Kenny Miles resigns as AM-drive jock for KRBE/Houston after five years there, relocating as afternoon man for KULF/Houston. Kenny's replacement is long-time Houston air personality Barry Kaye... Gene Knight resigns as PD of 91X/San Diego to join the staff of KHTZ/Los Angeles... Mike O'Brien & Tom Nast, PD & MD respectively of WBBF/Rochester, resign their programming posts but remain with station as jocks. Dave Mason from 13Q/Pittsburgh is named as WBBF's new PD... Steve Casey is appointed MD at WLS/Chicago, vacating his PD's post at KKKQ/Phoenix... KEARTH/Los Angeles goes "live" in AM drive, hiring London & Engleman as the station's new morning team... Dave Bishop becomes PD of WLEE/Richmond... Jack O'Brien leaves WIGY/Bath to accept the PD's job at PRO-FM/Providence... 92X/Columbus PD Jerry Dean announces his resignation effective December 1st and also announces his replacement will be Buddy Scott from WDJX/Dayton... Jim Sampner exits Y103/Jacksonville to become PD for KIOY/Fresno... Scotty Brink officially becomes new morning man for WXLO/New York... Todd Chase is promoted from PD to Station Manager at JB105/Providence... Christopher Haze resigns as 9-12noon jock for Z97/Ft. Worth...



Bob Laurence

NOVEMBER: Dan Vallie resigns as PD of 92Q/Nashville to become the PD at WEZB/New Orleans. Station shifts formats immediately from Dancemusic to Top 40... Beau Raines exits 96X/Miami, where he had been PD, and joins the staff at KWK/St. Louis... Don Benson announces he has accepted the Vice Presidency of Programming for Western Cities Broadcasting, leaving WQXI & 94Q/Atlanta, where he had been PD for three years... Jim Ryan becomes PD at WDRQ/Detroit as the station shifts back to Top 40, abandoning Dancemusic. Former WDRQ PD Mark Driscoll is transferred to Charter's Miami outlet 96X... Christopher Haze relocates at KILT/Houston as station announces its "changes for the 80's," including a new talk show at night hosted by Beau Weaver and a new "Hudson & Harrigan" team of Joe Sasso & Fred Kennedy... Terrence McKeever does a fast fade from KHJ/Los Angeles (where he had been Rick Dees's morning news anchor) returning to Memphis as a newsmen for FM100... The old "Hudson & Harrigan" team of Stevens & Pruett sign a contract to do mornings at KULF/Houston... Tony Mitchell is out as PD of KYXX/Seattle... Steve Kingston is promoted to Operations Manager at KYRE/Annapolis... WBBQ/Cleveland (formerly WIXY) converts from all talk to all hits under the guidance of Eric Stevens... Rob Sisco leaves WXLD/New York to become PD for WPEZ/Pittsburgh... 96X/Miami returns to Top 40 from Dancemusic, following the lead of WDRQ/Detroit... Mark Laurence exits as PD of WGUW/Bangor after three years in that position. His replacement is Kirk Sherwood... WSGA/Savannah's sister-FM WZAT turns off the Top 40 automation and goes live under new PD Brady McGraw and GM Gerry Rogers... Bob Pittman resigns as PD of WNBC/New York to accept a position as Director/Pay TV Programming for Warner/Amex Satellite Entertainment... WABC/New York releases three longtime air personalities, Harry Harrison, Chuck Leonard and George Michael, and restructures air sound. Howard Hoffman joins WABC from KAUM/Houston and Dan Ingram moves from afternoon to mornings... Fleetwood Gruver named PD at WQXI/Atlanta and Jim Morrison named to program 94Q/Atlanta... Gallagher & The Mayer team up to fill WBBQ/Memphis's morning slot.



Don Benson