

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WWUH West Hartford 91.3 FM – University of Hartford
WAPJ Torrington Community Radio 89.9 FM/105.1 FM

WDJW Somers High School 89.7 FM
WWEB Wallingford – Choate Rosemary Hall – 89.9 FM
Streaming online at WWUH.org

WWUH RADIO TO BROADCAST 10-PART DOCUMENTARY ON THE HISTORY OF CONNECTICUT RADIO STATIONS

Long before MP3 files and streaming services, people found out about new music almost exclusively through listening to the radio. Before television, radio was also a prime source for people to hear about breaking news events. In that era, radio stations broadcast dramas, comedies, and other entertainment programs, long before they were a staple of television programming.

People had favorite radio stations they listened to and radio disk jockeys didn't just play records, they were celebrities who had fans, just like the recording artists they featured on their shows.

Since 2005, WWUH has recorded interviews with over 120 disk jockeys, radio engineers, and behind-the-scenes people who remember those years of radio in Connecticut. We've also scoured websites, libraries, basements and garages to turn up vintage tapes and transcription disks from those years.

The result is **CONNECTICUT RADIO MEMORIES** - a series looking back at Connecticut's radio stations, focusing on the years 1922 to 1980 and featuring stories from people behind the microphones and behind the scenes.

The series is divided into ten episodes. Each episode runs from between 85 to 95 minutes and focuses on a particular radio station or group of stations.

For five consecutive weeks, beginning September 9, 2015, two episodes will run back-to-back each Wednesday afternoon from 1PM to 4PM on WWUH.

WEEK 1 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 (EPISODES 1 &2)

EPISODE 1 - Doolittle's Dream and Parker's Promise - The story of Connecticut's oldest radio station – WDRC AM.

EPISODE 2 - Static Free - The story of Hartford's Oldest FM station, and other FM stations in Hartford, that didn't have AM counterparts. This includes WHCN, WWUH, WRTC, WJMJ, WFNQ/WSCH/WLAE/WLVH, WPBH/WPKT/WNPR, and WHUS.

WEEK 2 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 (EPISODES 3 &4)

***EPISODE 3 – Radio Under the Umbrella Part 1** – The radio stations of the Travelers Insurance Company (WTIC AM and FM)*

***EPISODE 4 – Radio Under the Umbrella Part 2** – More stories from the radio stations of the Travelers Insurance Company (WTIC AM and FM)*

WEEK 3 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 (EPISODES 5 &6)

***EPISODE 5 – Insurance City Radio** – More stories of Hartford radio including the histories of WCCC, WTHT, WNBC/WHTD/WONS and WGTH.*

***EPISODE 6 – Pop Goes Your Radio** – the story of Hartford’s first top 40 station – WPOP.*

WEEK 4 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 (EPISODES 7 &8)

***EPISODE 7 – Brass and Park** – Radio stories from Waterbury and Bridgeport including the histories of WICC, WNAB, WJZZ/WPSB/WEZN, WATR, WWYZ, WWCO, WIOF/WYSR/WMRQ, WBRY/WTBY/WQQW.*

***EPISODE 8 – Hometown Radio Part 1** – Stories from radio stations in Connecticut’s smaller cities and towns including WCNX/WMRD (Middletown), WILI (Willimantic), WINF (Manchester), WKNB/WRYM (New Britain), WLIS (Old Saybrook), WNLK (Norwalk), and WSOR/WEHW/WKND (Windsor).*

WEEK 5 – OCTOBER 7, 2015 (EPISODES 9 &10)

***EPISODE 9 – Hometown Radio Part 2** More stories from Radio stations in Connecticut’s Smaller Cities and Towns including WBIS (Bristol), WMMW/WBMI/WKSS (Meriden), and WHAY/WRCH/WRCQ (New Britain).*

***EPISODE 10 – Elm City Radio** – The history of New Haven’s radio stations including WAVZ, WBIB, WELI, WDEE/WCDQ/WOMN/WSCR, WNHC, and WPLR.*

MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH EPISODE ARE ON THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW:

WEEK 1 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 (EPISODES 1 &2)

EPISODE 1 - Doolittle's Dream and Parker's Promise - The story of Connecticut's Oldest Radio Station

In 1922, Franklin Doolittle built a radio station in the back of his store in New Haven which would become WDRG radio. He also conducted pioneering experiments on Avon Mountain with Major Edwin Armstrong in the development of FM radio. We begin with a look at WDRG's early years as a CBS radio affiliate, carrying network programming and producing local shows with personalities like Harvey Olson, Russ Naughton, Bill Sheehan, and Larry Colton.

By 1960, as network radio entertainment programming was on the wane, WDRG's program director Charlie Parker developed a new "personality radio" format called *Radio Fun*. Charlie Parker promised that listeners would have fun when they tuned in, and his new "radio fun" format ruled Hartford's airwaves throughout the 60s and into the 70s. Parker, together with music director Bertha Porter - who had an incredible talent for picking hits - led WDRG to the top of the ratings for young listeners. During these years WDRG had many popular air personalities including Dick Robinson, Joey Reynolds, Sandy Beach, Brad Davis, Ken Griffin, Dick McDonough, Jim Raynor, Jerry Bishop, Ron Landry, Long John Wade, Kent Clark and Joel Cash.

This episode includes commentary from Dick Robinson, Joey Reynolds, Sandy Beach, Brad Davis, Ken Griffin, Dick McDonough, Jim Raynor, Jerry Bishop, Kent Clark, Steve Parker, Bill Hennessey, Rusty Potz, Dan Blume, Stanley Peer, Wayne Mulligan, John Doolittle, Bob Paine, Ed Brouder, Al Cohen, Joel Cash, Mike Dreschler, Lani Jurev, Jack Lenhoff, and Fred Swanson.

Includes archival audio of Dick Robinson, Joey Reynolds, Sandy Beach, Ron Landry, Long John Wade, Jerry Bishop, Art Johnson, Dick McDonough, Kent Clark, Brad Davis, Harvey Olson, Russ Naughton, Jim Raynor, Jack Zaiman, Larry Colton, Bill Sheehan, Maj. Edwin Armstrong, John M Bailey, Walt Dibble, Charlie Parker, Paul Motto, Bertha Porter, Paul Morency, Joe Barbarette, Jim Nettleton, and Aaron Shepard.

EPISODE 2 - Static Free - The story of Hartford's Oldest FM station, and other FM stations in Hartford, that didn't have AM counterparts

We look at the origins of WHCN as a classical music station in T. Mitchell Hayes' Concert Network, and after financial problems, its 1969 conversion into Hartford's first all-progressive rock radio station, and one of the earliest free-form stations in the country.

In addition, we look at several other FM-only stations heard in greater Hartford including WWUH (University of Hartford), WJMJ (St. Thomas Seminary), WRTC (Trinity College), WHUS (University of Connecticut), WFNQ/WSCH/WLAE/WLVH/WZMX as well as Connecticut Public Radio which started as WPBH, then was WPKT and is now WNPR.

This episode includes commentary from: Larry Titus, Frank Donovan, Ivor Hugh, Bryant Thomas, Paul Payton, Jim Shannon, Neil Portnoy, Gordon Weingarth, Charlie Horwitz, Gabby Parsons, Abby "Firefly" Gray, Gary Lee Horn, Mike Picozzi, John Ramsey, Fred Swanson, Mike Dreschler, Jerry Bishop, Wayne Norman, John Ellinger, Bob Ellsworth, Phil Callan, Paul K Taff, Bill Henry, Reynolds Onderdonk, Steve Martin, and Ray Dunaway.

Includes archival audio of: Larry Titus, Stu Kauffman, Picozzi and the Horn, George Michael Evica, Mort Fega, Neil Portnoy, Robert Bray, Bob Ellsworth, Clark Smidt, Ivor Hugh, George Malcolm-Smith, Bill Henry, Robert J Lurtsema, Spitz & Peebles, Reynolds Onderdonk, and Floyd Richards.

WEEK 2 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 (EPISODES 3 &4)

EPISODE 3 – Radio Under the Umbrella Part 1 – The Radio Stations of the Travelers Insurance Company

In 1925, the Traveler's Insurance Company ventured into the radio business by launching WTIC AM. What would grow into Connecticut's only 50,000 watt AM station was initially a public service and public-relations effort by the Travelers. In this episode, we look at the early programming of WTIC and then look at several well-known personalities from the station's history including Ben Hawthorne (it's first morning man), the great Bob Steele (it's longest running morning man, familiar to millions over the decades), and many others including Floyd Richards, Dick Bertel, Bob Ellsworth, Bruce Kern, Ross Miller, Jean Colbert, Ed Anderson, George Malcolm-Smith, and Fred Wade. We also take a look at some of WTIC's news people, and the stories they've covered over the decades.

Includes commentary from: Arnold Dean, Floyd Richards, Dick Bertel, Bill Hennessey, Bob Ellsworth, Bill Henry, Charlie Bagley, Bill Flower, Bryant Thomas, Dana Whelan, Bob Dunn, Bob Paine, Barbara Manstan, Fred Mahoney, Kay Mahoney, Bob Scherago, Wayne Mulligan, Fred Swanson, Mike Rice, Phil Steele, Leo Barrieau, Fred Pearson, John Reno, Chris Francis, Larry Titus, Dewey Dow, Richard Price, Greg Gilmartin, Dick Zwirko, Geoff Bell, Ted Dalaku, and Jeff Hugabonne.

Includes archival audio of: Bob Steele, Floyd Richards, Bob Ellsworth, Dick Bertel, Lou Palmer, Ben Hawthorne, Ross Miller, Bruce Kern, Ed Anderson, Jean Colbert, Ed Corcoran, Bernard Mullins, Larry DeBear, Brad Davis, Jim Thompson, Al Terzi, Joe Girand, Bill Hanson, Alan Sagal, Norm Peters, Bryant Thomas, Angela Dias, Walt Dibble, Peter Stoner, Governor John Lodge, Gertrude McCaulliffe, Walter Cowles, Guy Hedlund, Fred Wade, and Bob Tyrol.

EPISODE 4 – Radio Under the Umbrella Part 2 – More Stories From the Radio Stations of the Travelers Insurance Company

In this second episode devoted to WTIC, we look at several of their other well-known personalities including Arnold Dean, Bill Hennessey, Brad Davis, Robert E Smith, Art Johnson, as well as other aspects of the station's programming during the Travelers era including its classical music format on FM, its sports coverage, farm programming, and the Travelers Weather Service. We also hear stories from the station's engineers about challenges they've faced over the years, and we hear about the Travelers sale of WTIC and the subsequent format changes.

Includes commentary from: Arnold Dean, Bill Hennessey, Brad Davis, Floyd Richards, Dick Bertel, Bob Ellsworth, Charlie Bagley, Bill Henry, Lani Jurev, Bill Flower, Ted Dalaku, Phil Steele, Bryant Thomas, Chris Francis, Ray Dunaway, Dick Zwirko, Bob Dunn, Fred Pearson, Chuck Albert, Kay Mahoney, Bob Scherago, Wayne Mulligan, Dan Blume, Greg Gilmartin, Jeff Hugabonne, Larry Titus, John Reno, and David Kaplan.

Includes archival audio of: Bob Steele, Arnold Dean, Bill Hennessey, Brad Davis, Robert E Smith, Art Johnson, Peter Lee Anderson, Lani Jurev, Bruce Kern, Dick Bertel, John Birchard, Bill Henry, Floyd Richards, Jim MacDonald, John Erikson, Barbara Allan, Milt Barlow, Charlie Bagley, Frank Atwood, Don Tuttle, Bill Clede, Scott Gray, George Ehrlich, Herman Taylor, Al Jackson, Paul Morency, Bill Lenke, Bill Corsair, Ted Dalaku, Tom McCarthy, Ray Dunaway, Joe McCormick, Artie Shaw, Ted Williams, and Dana Whelan.

WEEK 3 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 (EPISODES 5 &6)

EPISODE 5 – Insurance City Radio – More Stories of Hartford Radio

In this episode, we look at several Hartford radio stations, past and present.

We start with a look at WCCC, which was started in 1947 by Hartford jewelry store owner Bill Savitt. Bill Savitt used radio to boost downtown Hartford, and in turn benefit commerce downtown, including his own store. We'll hear about early programming on WCCC, its popular children's show that featured Ivor Hugh playing Leroy the Duck, and then we'll look at its transition in the late 1960s into Hartford's only all-request radio station under the direction of Rusty Potz. In later years, WCCC became home to Dick Booth (who later used the name "Sebastian") and was the first major market station home of shock-jock Howard Stern.

Then we look at a radio station that's often forgotten – WTHT - the radio station of Hartford's one-time afternoon newspaper, *The Hartford Times*. WTHT broadcast a man-on-the-street interview show called *Hartford Speaks* hosted by Una King, and had other personalities like Joe Girand and Ben Hawthorne (who became WTHT's morning man after he left WTIC).

We also look at the 1410 spot on the AM dial which started as WNBC (New Britain, Connecticut) and then became WHTD, later WONS, and after a merger with WTHT in 1954, WGTH. WONS had popular personalities like Jack Downey, and CP Patterson.

Includes commentary by: Bill Hennessey, Ivor Hugh, Rusty Potz, Don Blair, Jerry Bishop, Ken Devoe, Ed Brouder, Barbara Davitt, Jack Lenhoff, Jack Borden, Jack Downey, Bill Davies, Jack Broitman, Debbie Savitt First, Sam Pasco, Bob Paine, Lani Jurev, John Ellinger, John Flemming, Fred Swanson, Bill Glynn, Dan Blume, Alexander Cohen, Charlie Norwood, Norm Hausman, Joan Cowie, Dick Bertel, Bob Ellsworth, and Steve Gilmartin.

Includes archival audio of: Bill Savitt, Ivor Hugh, Jack Brooks, Betty Hugh, Morgan St. Germain, Rusty Potz, Dick Booth, Boston Bill, Dan Walker, Brooklyn Joe, Howard Stern, Una King, Bob Marr, Doug Maine, Bob Harrington, Joe Girand, Ben Hawthorne, Hal Harshbarger, Dick Richards and Dottie.

EPISODE 6 – Pop Goes Your Radio – the story of Hartford's First Top 40 Station

When WGTH radio was sold, its format changed to Hartford's first Top 40 station – WPOP. Popular DJs hosted record hops and did weird stunts to attract listeners. WPOP had many well-known air personalities like Doug the Bug, Bobby Scott, Don Blair, Joey

Reynolds, and Ken Griffin. Morton Downey Jr. who would become a controversial TV talk show host was WPOP's morning man early in his career. WPOP entered into a fierce rivalry with WDRC to compete for Hartford's top 40 listeners. WPOP eventually adopted the "More Music" format, de-emphasizing personality in favor of the music. By 1975, WPOP's top 40 format was dropped, and WPOP became Hartford's first all-news radio station, a distinction it would hold well into the 1980s.

Includes commentary from: Joey Reynolds, Rusty Potz, Ken Griffin, Ray Dunaway, Del Raycee, Richard Ward Fatherly, Doug Wardwell, Bob Scott, Don Blair, Jack Broitman, Fred Swanson, Bob Paiva, Dan Clayton, Bill Bland, Ed Brouder, Kevin McKeown, Chuck Crouse, TJ Lambert, Bob Craig, Lee Gordon, Steve O'Brien, Dude Walker, Ron Lake, Gerry Brooks, and Neal Steele.

Includes archival audio of: Ken Griffin, Bill Bland, Jack Armstrong, Lee Baby Sims, Dan Clayton, The Greaseman, Bob Craig, Lou Terri, Woody Roberts, Jack Brooks, Mike Lawless, Lee Gordon, John Berky, Gerry Brooks, and TJ Lambert.

WEEK 4 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 (EPISODES 7 & 8)

EPISODE 7 – Brass and Park – Radio stories from Waterbury and Bridgeport

In this episode, we look at some of the radio stations in two of Connecticut's other big cities – Waterbury and Bridgeport. We look at Waterbury's radio stations, the family owned WATR AM and the FM which later became WWYZ, WWCO AM and the FM that later became WIOF, then WYSR, and then WMRQ. We also look at WBRY which was a popular AM station, which became WTBY and then WQQW but eventually went out of business. We also look at Bridgeport's top station WICC – one of Connecticut's oldest stations, and its onetime FM station WJZZ which was Connecticut's first all-jazz station – it later became WPSB and then WEZN. We also look at competitor WNAB which survived for many years against WICC. There were many great personalities that came out of these stations, including Bob Crane, Frank Delfino, Rocky the Space Jockey, Gene Valentino, Al Warren, Tiny Markle, and Barbara Davitt, just to name a few.

Includes commentary from: Al Warren, Bob Paine, Dick Ferguson, Frank Delfino, Richard Ward Fatherly, Bill Flower, Don Meno, John Bunnell, Wayne Mulligan, Steve Martin, Gene Valentino, Bob Craig, Skip Franco, Walt Pinto, Dave Billis, Marty Moran, Jason Steinberg, Barbara Davitt, Marvin Rothschild, Sophie Zembruski, Tom Chute, Bryant Thomas, Ken Griffin, Lee Gordon, Bill Davies, Don Meno, Dave Billis, and John Ellinger.

Includes archival audio of: Bob Crane, Al Warren, Ray Taylor (Dan Ingram), Lance Drake, Tom Collins, Dave Brubeck, Mike Lawless, John Bekish, Don Cornell, Ralph Flanagan, Tony Marvin, Bob Michaels, Lou Terri, Kathy Foxx, Dave Feda, Scott Morgan, Chip Hobart, John Saville, and Danny Lyons.

EPISODE 8 – Hometown Radio Part 1 – Stories from Radio stations in Connecticut's Smaller Cities and Towns

In this episode, we look at some of the smaller radio stations which have served as their "hometown" radio station. This includes WCNX in Middletown (later WMRD, WILI in Willimantic, WINF in Manchester (which became Hartford's first all-talk station), WKNB in New Britain which eventually became an all ethnic station WRYM, WLIS in Old Saybrook, WNLK in Norwalk, and WSOR in Windsor which became WEHW and later WKND, Hartford's original soul and R&B station.

Includes commentary from Bob Muscatel, Del Raycee, Rusty Potz, Wayne Norman, Bill Glynn, Ed Henry, Chuck Crouse, Sean Edenburn, Bob Dunn, Bryant Thomas, Phil Hale Jr., Penny Duborg, Bill Hennessey, Charles Poticha, Don Blair, Richard Ward Fatherly, Dick Bertel, Wayne Mulligan, Mike Rice, and Fred Swanson.

Includes archival audio of Gary Girard, Jeff Jacobs, Mike Gerardi, Wayne Norman, James Duffy, Bob Gregory, Tony Bennett, and Irwin H. Forbush.

WEEK 5 – OCTOBER 7, 2015 (EPISODES 9 & 10)

EPISODE 9 – Hometown Radio Part 2– More Stories from Radio stations in Connecticut’s Smaller Cities and Towns

In this episode, we look at some more of the stations from Connecticut’s smaller cities including WBIS in Bristol, WMMW in Meriden and its FM counterpart WMMW FM which became WBMI – a muzak distributor, WKSS, and WHAY, a New Britain station which remade itself to cover all of greater Hartford as “Rich Radio” WRCH AM and FM. Later it had an all oldies station, WRCQ AM.

Includes commentary from: Dick Bertel, Jack Borden, Bob Ellsworth, Dick Robinson, John Ellinger, Bill Davies, Fred Swanson, Del Raycee, Don Blair, Bill Glynn, Dick Newcity, Lee Steele, Richard Price, Tom Hungerford, Dan Blume, Frank Donovan, Ray Hard, Bryant Thomas, Don Meno, Marty Moran, Phil Callan, Wayne Mulligan, John Flemming, Geoff Bell, Walt Pinto, and Charlie Bagley.

Includes archival audio of: Hermie Dressel, Dick Bertel, Dan Blume, Dick Robinson, Danny Lyons, Don Moline, Steve Jay, Pat Scalone, Tom Casey, and Governor Ella Grasso.

EPISODE 10 – Elm City Radio – The Story of New Haven Radio Stations

This episode is devoted entirely to New Haven radio and its stations through the years. We’ll hear about an early FM station WBIB, New Haven’s oldest station WELI, the top-40 competition between WNHC and WAVZ, and the Hamden station WDEE, which went through many formats and call letter changes. Its FM eventually became WKCI. We’ll also hear how WNHC FM became New Haven’s premier rock station WPLR.

Includes commentary from: Bud Finch, Jerry Kristafer, Rusty Potz, Chuck Brinkman, Al Warren, Bill Flower, Dick Ferguson, Don Meno, Fred Swanson, Gerry Brooks, Mike Rice, Steve Martin, Walt Pinto, Frank Delfino, Ken Devoe, Ed Brouder, Bob Paine, Dick McDonough, Del Raycee, Don Blair, Richard Ward Fatherly, Kevin McKeown, Steve O’Brien, Bob Craig, Barry Grant, Dick Kalt, Gordon Weingarh, and Phyllis Pariczek.

Includes archival audio of: Dan Ingram, Tiny Markle, Bud Finch, Bill Beamish, Ron Rohmer, Jerry Kristafer, Stoneman, Dick McDonough, George Lazat, Bill Rock, Ken Devoe, George Phillips, Walt Dibble, Gerry Brooks, Frank Carrano, Michael Leitner, Del Raycee, Don Blair, Kevin McKeown, Bob Morgan, and Marcia Simon.