

Here's a follow up on my column from September where I wrote about the 1961 West Concord Homecoming game against Dodge Center. The game was broadcast on KRFO-AM1390 radio. One of the owners of the station at the time was Todd Hale, a gentleman who owned that station for about 30 years. I had a chance to visit with him on the phone a couple of weeks ago. I wanted to find out who did the play by play of that particular WC game as there was never any mention in the recording as to who was broadcasting. Todd told me after hearing a little of the audio that it was Arne Schumann. Arne was on his sales staff and did some sports announcing. Todd himself did some sports but he stuck mostly with hockey. It was fun to talk with Todd as we were just two old radio guys talking shop. We each had our own Jack Hyde stories. Jack was one of the founders of KDHL in Faribault. In fact the 'H' in KDHL is his initial. Palmer Dragston is the 'D' and Herb Lee is the 'L'. Those three men were the original owners. When Jack hired me as farm director back in 1987 he was the sole owner.

Todd also brought up a name out of the past, Judd Jacobson. I remember many a night around the supper table we would listen to KDHL to hear the Faribault news at 6pm and then get the Owatonna news with Judd at 6:15. Judd was a paraplegic from the age of 16 as he was injured in a diving accident. Todd Hale is now retired but still does a weekly show on Sundays that features music from the 40's and 50's. I had forgotten until he reminded me the RFO in KRFO stood for Radio From Owatonna.



One of the Jack Hyde stories I remember from my days working at the 'Mighty 920' was that there was no food or drink allowed in the control room. I found this out the hard way. We had a sponsor 3 mornings a week, Dusek's Bakery. They would bring over a box of assorted goodies that the staff could sample and the on-air people would talk about in the Dusek's commercial. Well one day I had one of the glazed donuts in the control room with me when Jack comes walking in. He told me in no uncertain terms that food and drink were not allowed in the control room. He didn't have to tell me twice but he should have. It had to be about two weeks later, it slipped my mind and I had another baked good from Duseks in the control room with me. I had about a 5 second warning that Jack was coming in to see me as I could see through the window he was on his way. I quickly put the half eaten delectable in the wastebasket, carefully enough mind you, that I could retrieve it later and then I kind of put the newspaper over the top of the wastebasket. Jack stated his business and then went on his way. I thought for sure I was a goner that day. I'm not sure if he noticed the glaze on my lips or not.

KDHL still does the 'birthday club' where people send or call in birthdays and they are then announced on air. One of the announcers who I think was John Anderson and myself were

doing the birthday club one morning. At the end we encouraged people to send in postcards with their birthday. I said on the air to send the postcard with the who, when, what and how. John looks at me and questions 'The How?' And that's all it took to have a fit of uncontrollable laughter for about the next half hour. I guess we didn't need to know 'the how' of anyone's birthday.

The fits of uncontrollable laughter hit me 5 or 6 times over my radio career. One other time at KDHL, newsman Gordy Kosfeld and I were standing right outside the door of the control room as ABC national news was on the air. When that finished I would introduce Gordy and the sponsors of the day. Well as we're standing there talking, we hear Doug Limerick close out his news and then there was silence or as it's called in the business, dead air. Gordy and I look at each other and realize that we're supposed to be in place and on the air. We made like those cartoon characters when they're running, our legs were going in circles but we weren't getting anywhere fast. I got in the control room and Gordy got in the news studio. We were both laughing so hard that I could not do any kind of introductions. I think I finally blurted out 'here's Gordy'. I turn his microphone on and all you hear is his laughter. So I turn his mic off and play a recorded commercial of a sponsor that was supposed to be given a tag line introduction. Well that wasn't about to happen that morning. We're still laughing so hard I go ahead and play another sponsored announcement. When that one finished I just turned Gordy's mic on and left the room so he would not see me laughing. I'm not sure how he managed to get through that newscast that day.

I would compare these uncontrollable laughter episodes to the blooper reels you sometimes see of TV shows, you know the portions of a sitcom that were not on the air but were actually funnier than the finished program. Only these were on live radio. When I worked at KTIC in West Point, Nebraska one Saturday morning, Rich Sterling and I were doing a program where people would call in and bid on various goods and services from our sponsors. KDHL had a program similar called Wheeler Dealer. This particular Saturday morning was rather slow and we had to fill time. There are only so many things you can say about a brake service to get people to bid on one so we had lots of time to fill with stories about anything. I proceed to tell Rich the story about comedian Buddy Hackett doing a bit on the Johnny Carson show one time. Buddy was explaining why Bette Davis finally had to quit acting. Buddy explained that many actors, to get tears to come to their eyes when the scene called for it, would quickly pull a nose hair. If you don't believe it can bring tears to the eyes, just try it sometime. So Buddy Hackett is explaining all of this and then says that Bette Davis had to quit acting because her nose went bald. Sometimes something funny just strikes you and you can't quit laughing. I'm not sure how long we went that time but there were no recorded commercials to play, we

weren't supposed to play music during this program so we just laughed our way through it. Our boss, who happened to be in that morning, just came and watched through the window. Finally he just left laughing. I guess that was our job that day was to entertain because we sure weren't selling any brake jobs.

In 2018, KDHL celebrated 60 years of broadcasting. They invited me to join them at the Rice County Fair to talk over old times. In those 60 years, they've only had 4 farm broadcasters. Hall of Fame broadcaster Dean Curtiss from Elysian was the first starting in 1948. He was the first voice to be heard on the station. Rod Johnson from Cannon Falls was the 2<sup>nd</sup> farm broadcaster. When Rod left KDHL in 1987, I became the 3<sup>rd</sup> farm broadcaster and Jerry Groskreutz from Wells in the current and only the 4th farm broadcaster in KDHL's 60 plus years. In the picture from left to right is Emery Kleven, Jerry Groskreutz, Rod Johnson and standing is newsman Gordy Kosfeld, who has been with the station since 1987.

