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THE MAYOR SPEAKS:

The quality of the service rendered by a radio station must always be a matter of grave concern to the community in which it is located. It can be not only an active instrument in its development but, to a large extent and over a large area, its voice becomes the voice of the community. And like people, communities are judged by their voices.

The voice of radio station WDOR has been one of which our community is justifiably proud. It is with a real sense of obligation and indebtedness that, on behalf of the city of Sturgeon Bay, I extend its congratulations and best wishes to Ed Allen, its directors and personnel on the occasion of the Fifth Anniversary of WDOR.

Stanley R. Greene,
Mayor

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CHARLIE SPIVAK . . .

Charlie Spivak, "The Man Who Plays The Sweetest Trumpet In The World," is the musician whose fresh and original idiom in trumpet playing is described as "honey in the horn." He is the leader of a band which rocketed to top flight stature so fast that it now ranks among the kings in the entertainment world.



Notches in Spivak's musical belt are 20th Century-Fox's "Pin-Up Girl" starring Betty Grable and "Follow The Boys" for Universal and a flock of box-office records created at the Paramount Theatre in New York, the Hotel Statler, New York, the Palladium in Hollywood and other top spots. Spivak's music-making is so solidly established for its individuality that it can be identified whenever and wherever it is played, as "indubitably Charlie's."

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Spivak got his first trumpet while still in grade school, a tiny instrument with the first valve practically on top of Charlie's nose. He went to Hill House High School in New Haven, studying the trumpet on his own time with George Hyer who was a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. The fact that Spivak's family had chartered out a medical career for him didn't alter Charlie's decision to take to the brass, and when Paul Specht, then one of the country's outstanding bandleaders, offered him a job he signed up—and remained with the outfit for 5 years.

He then joined the Benny Pollack band, another number one outfit, and his next step was the Dorsey Brothers band where he sat alongside such musicians as Glenn Miller, Skeets Herfut and Bob Crosby. When Ray Noble came to America, he asked Glenn to help him organize a band, and the first musician to be signed was Spivak.

When Spivak left to try his musical wings on his own, he became the highest paid free lance trumpeter in radio, playing on the Ford Symphony Hour, Kate Smith and Fred Allen broadcasts. When he felt ready to organize his own band, a lot of encouragement came from Glenn Miller who told him he had all the ingredients necessary for a winning combination. Spivak got his first big engagement at the Glen Island Casino, jumping-off-place for more than a dozen of the nation's top-flight bandleaders. He was so successful that the Casino, traditionally a summer spot, broke a precedent by keeping its doors open for the winter season to accommodate Spivak's drawing power. Spivak came to the Cafe Rouge of the Hotel Statler (then the Hotel Pennsylvania) shortly thereafter, and broke Glenn Miller's and Jimmy Dorsey's records there and then did the same thing at the Hotel Commodore. He has been a regular fall attraction at the Statler every season.

A highlight was his award by Downbeat Magazine as the top sweet band. Spivak is mild mannered and quiet spoken. He is five feet eight inches tall, has brown hair, blue eyes and still blushes at a compliment. A baseball fan, Spivak has organized a team within his band. Charlie plays center field.

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Ground breaking ceremony for Radio Station WDOR, held April 7, 1951. Left to right are Frank Felhofer, Dr. Dan Dorchester, Frank Kellner, C. D. Brower, Jr., Dr. Hubert Grotz, D. C. Pisha, Ed Felhofer, Stanley Greene, the late W. L. Thenell, Ed Allen, Charles W. Leist, and Herbert Johnson. All are stockholders in the Door County Broadcasting Co., Inc., except D. C. Pisha (then President of the Chamber of Commerce), and Mayor Stanley Greene. (Photo by Herb Reynolds.)

The WDOR Story . . .

WDOR is five years old. Actually, it's older than that, since its mother corporation, the Door County Broadcasting Co., Inc., was formed in 1947. The idea was born over a cup of coffee.

It was Ed Felhofer who suggested to Ed Allen that it would be a good idea to start a radio station in Door County. This was during one of the Allens' frequent visits to their cottage at Clark's Lake. At first the idea seemed remote. But as Ed and Dolores Allen thought more about it, they realized that it might have possibilities after all. Ed Allen was then with NBC in Chicago, and had spent 20 years in radio. The Allens wanted their own business, and they loved Door County, so why not? Ed talked it over with other businessmen in the county, and the idea was greeted with enthusiasm.

Frank Kellner, then President of the Chamber of Commerce, was particularly enthusiastic, and offered to help. So the Door County Broadcasting Co., Inc., was formed, consisting of Ed Allen, Frank Kellner, Ed and Frank Felhofer, the late W. L. Thenell, C. D. Brower, Jr., Dr. H. D. Grotz, Dr. Dan Dorchester, Jack Cundy, Charles Winn Leist, and Herbert Johnson. This was in 1947.

But a radio station is not easily achieved. It was four years before WDOR actually hit the air. In that time, its organizers worked hard to get both day and night coverage for the station. Unfortunately, Manistee, Michigan wanted the same thing, on the same frequency. And so hearings were held before the Federal Communications Commission. Manistee won, but there was still hope. Another application was filed for WDOR to be a daytime station. This time it was granted. And on September 8, 1951, WDOR went on the air.

In 1953, William Warnkey became a part of the organization as a stockholder, and as Sales Manager. Mr. Warnkey recently retired, due to ill health, but remains a part of the company.

In five years, WDOR, like many an old friend, has come to be taken for granted. But also like an old friend, it continues to serve, with an excellent coverage of the local news, complete weather forecasts, health programs, "Party Line" with its many services, and the best music available, both popular and light classics. We hope that many times in the days to come, you will turn your radio dial to 910, to avail yourselves of the many services and entertainment on WDOR.



RON FLEISSNER is the popular disc jockey heard early mornings, from 6 to 9— and afternoons from 2 to 4 when the Braves are not playing. As one listener put it, "Early morning rising is much more pleasant . . . and afternoons shorter, with Ron's ready wit to keep me company"! Ron is an ex-marine, and has worked at WWO, Manitowoc, and WTKM, Hartford. He and his wife, Arlyne, moved to Sturgeon Bay in January of this year.



VERNEILLE HAEN matches wits with Ron each noon on "Party Line" (12 to 12:30). Verneille is also WDOR's news reporter, and is heard between 11 and 12 each morning, with news of what's going on 'all around the Peninsula.' Verneille is married, manages to take care of her husband, George, and four children, and still present a cheery voice to her listeners. She has been nick-named "Happy Haen" by her co-workers.

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The Mission and Purpose of WDOR

... A LOCAL
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Ed Allen

To serve the community. To afford a greater means of self-expression.

To present news as it happens. To promote the public health. To promote safety in co-operation with the police and fire departments. To afford local talent an opportunity to develop its art. To strengthen public morals through co-operation with county religious leaders. To promote education, religion and culture. To knit together more closely the people of our community.

To hear of things thousands of miles away . . . things hidden and things dangerous. To hear of men and women and children. To amaze . . . to amuse . . . and to instruct.

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