

'Mr. Show Biz' dives into local radio waves again

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

"Dick Osgood, considered a 'clean of Detroit radio' personality, is returning to the local radio scene.

Osgood, 92, joins the research staff of Somewhere in Time, a locally produced nostalgic radio show.

Dubbed as Detroit's "Mr. Show Biz," Osgood started his Detroit radio career at WXYZ as a copywriter in 1935 at \$65 per week. He retired from the station in 1971.

On his former "Show World" program on WXYZ, a comment from Osgood could make or break a movie in the Detroit market.

Osgood, a Farmington Hills resident, was also the Face Finder on WXYZ and in 1939 donned a cap and gown to serve as the host of the Radio Schoolhouse.

At one time, Osgood had to approve every line of copy aired on WXYZ as the personal representative of George W. Trendle, creator of the Lone Ranger and station owner.

"Having Dick in our family is just like traveling back in time," said Tom Wilson, the host of Somewhere in Time. "Dick knows everything (good and bad) about early Detroit radio, being able to check out a bit of nostalgia with someone who joked with the Lone Ranger, swapped stories with the Green Hornet and talked about dogs with Sergeant Preston."

Somewhere in Time is heard in southeastern Michigan on WDTR-FM (90.9) 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and 4 p.m. Saturdays. The program is also carried statewide on the Michigan Educational Radio Network and in Austria on the Blue Danube Network of Austrian National Radio.

Retirement didn't slow Osgood down, he simply switched gears. He's researched and written behind-the-scenes stories about the Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Those stories became syndicated in 1981.

"I've also written a book about a private, exclusive club called The 'C' Club," Osgood said.

Some members of the Fisher family and Reynolds families, of Reynolds Aluminum fame, belonged to the club, Osgood said. Osgood believes he was chosen to write the book because "he wouldn't capitalize on it."

He's flattered that club members took him into their confidence.

For law, investments and gardening occupy Osgood's leisure time.

Osgood recalls with delight the

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Tom Wilson
Somewhere in Time host

start of the careers of Mike Wallace, Soupy Sales, Douglas Edwards, Johnnie Desmond and others at WXYZ. Along with J. Edgar Hoover, Osgood was a pallbearer at Bruce Beemer's funeral in 1965.

Beemer, whose "Hill-Yo, Silver" enthralled 10-year-olds for several decades, was announcer for the popular program.

When Earle Graser, the original Lone Ranger was killed in an automobile accident in April 1941, Beemer stepped into the role.

Graser lived in a home on Locust Drive that is scheduled to become Farmington's first bed and breakfast.

Osgood joins octogenarian B. Franklin Steiner, an 85-year-old retired diplomat who listens to Somewhere in Time in Arlington, Va., and furnishes the program with the closing quotes heard at the end of each show.

Osgood and his wife, Anne, have two children, Stella Bartlett Kirby and William Estey Osgood.



SHARON LEIBLOU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Radio days returned: Dick Osgood takes it easy — but not too easy. He's back at the radio mike to resume a career that has spanned decades.

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