



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Jules Cohen

1917 - 2012

Jules Cohen passed away November 13th, 2012. He was 95 years old.

Cohen, President of Jules Cohen & Associates was a well-known broadcast engineer who often was involved in FCC actions, providing research and background information.



Photo courtesy: NAB

Jules C. Cohen

April 21, 1917 – November 13, 2012

Cohen was born April 21, 1917, and grew up in Seattle, WA. He attended the University of Washington (Seattle) where he got his BSEE. After working for some consulting engineers in Seattle, he served as an engineer at the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, OR, until he volunteered entered the US Navy as an Ensign in May of 1942, rising to the rank of Senior Lieutenant.

At the end of WWII, he accepted a job as Senior Engineer in the engineering consulting firm of Weldon and Carr. Seven years later, he began his own firm, Vandivere, Cohen and Wearn in 1952, with Ed Vandivere and Wilson Wearn. By 1983, the firm was known as Jules Cohen & Associates. Clients included all the five major television networks, the NAB, major group owners, individual stations, and the cellular industry, among others.

Cohen officially “retired” on January 1, 1988, but continued to serve some of his clients over the years.

Among the FCC proceedings in which he was involved:

- The pioneering studies and reports leading to the FCC OET Bulletin 65 regarding RF Exposure
- The FCC rules for NCEFM assignments
- Many other FCC Rulemakings
- Some 10,000 applications for radio and television stations

- Research on interference and abatement, including during construction of the original World Trade Center in New York City.

His work as the consulting engineer for the New York Television All Industry Committee made him, in a sense, the father of the NYC television station transmitter plant on the World Trade Center. His efforts kept that project on track despite bureaucratic pressures to cancel the transmission site.

Cohen was also an author, performing studies and writing articles for a number of groups, such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee, as well as technical trade publications, including the NAB Engineering Handbook

Over the years, Cohen hired and trained quite a few Professional Engineers at his firm, many becoming well-known PEs in their own right, citing the training they got from Cohen. Ron Rackley's thoughts echoed the comments of many: "He was as fine a man as I ever knew and I have known very few even in his league."

Among the awards he received, in 1988 Cohen was given the NAB Engineering Achievement Award. In 1990, he got an Achievement Award from the Broadcast Pioneers in Washington, DC. In 1999, the IEEE lifetime service award was given. And in 2006, the AFCCE gave him the E. Noel Luddy Award for Years of Service to the Communications Community.

Cohen belonged to many industry groups. He was a 50-Year-Member and a Life Fellow of the IEEE and a member of the AFCCE (also a past President of the Association). He was also a member of the Association of Maximum Service Television, Inc. (MSTV) in subcommittees and technical groups of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), Tau Beta Pi, an engineering scholastic honorary, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS - Life Member), the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE - Life Fellow), and the Bioelectromagnetics Society (and former chairman of that association's Radiation Hazard Subcommittee).

The memorial service for Cohen was scheduled for Friday, November 23 at 11 AM at Temple Rodef Shalom. 2100 West Moreland Street, Falls Church, VA.

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