



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

www.theBDR.net

... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Mike Callaghan

1944 - 2016

Mike Callaghan, a member of the Los Angeles engineering community for 40 years, passed away on November 4th, after a short hospitalization for diabetes-related issues. He was 72.



Michael David Callaghan
October 28, 1944 - November 4, 2016

Mike was born on October 28, 1944 in San Francisco, CA.

After high school came a stint in the Army and, after discharge, Mike attended Pasadena (CA) City College. Shortly after getting his First Class Radiotelephone Permit he was hired by KPPC AM-FM in Pasadena, and presided over the transfer from the Pasadena Presbyterian Church to the National Science Network's purchase.

Mike had a definite sense of humor and his friends remember the famous setup from the church basement where the EOMs from the cart machines lit up lights on Joseph and Mary statuettes – and the over-modulation light lit a lamp on a statue of Jesus. Let us just remember the church elders did not see humor, and urged – no, demanded – the station move. Oh, yes, and then, to show he was not prejudiced, Mike built a Modulation Menorah with eight yellow and one red light to measure station loudness.

In addition to being a gifted technician, who could not only troubleshoot and repair gear, but design products that were sold by a major manufacturer, Mike was a born troubleshooter on several levels. Under NSN, for example, he often quickly sized up a problem and found the solution: the station was going through a tremendous number of 5-gallon water bottles. Mike discovered a particular couple were taking the bottles home. Mike's solution: he made sure he was out by the side of the station when they came in the next day, filling the bottle from a hose. No more water went missing after that.

After KPPC, Mike worked at KWST(FM) in Hollywood and then KKDJ(FM). He stayed with the station through its transition, as it morphed into KIIS-FM, and eventually became part of Clear Channel Communications, now iHeart.

In addition to his broadcast work, he taught at Pasadena City College from 1975-85, handling classes on broadcast technology and advanced circuit analysis.

Mike was survived by his wife of 44 years, Dr. Gayle Callaghan, and three children, John, Kelly, and Caitlin.

Return to The BDR Menu