



On Sunday, May 23, 2010, Philadelphia lost an icon, a legend in this world of communications that we call broadcasting. Bill Webber was a tower of a man. Not because of his physical height but because of his vast accomplishments in broadcasting. His 62-year career was truly amazing. Now is a day for mourning but it's also a time to recall all the good times. Bill entertained countless generations of children on his kids programs on three different Delaware Valley channels, WFIL-TV, channel 6; WPHL-TV, channel 17 and WKBS-TV, channel 48.

Bill used to tell the students at Broadcast Pioneers' Career Nights and Symposiums that the broadcaster loves his craft so much that he'll continue to ply his trade to his last breath. This was Bill's legacy. He loved broadcasting and the people of the Delaware Valley so much that he moved here and never left.

He brought joy into the lives of radio listeners during his broadcasts on WIP Radio, WPEN Radio and in 2010 on WHAT Radio and WVLT Radio. Always an entertainer, the Bill Webber you heard on the air, was the real Bill Webber. He was exactly the same on air and off. He did broadcast after broadcast. Bill enjoyed it as much as his listeners, viewers and untold number of fans. This is what made Bill real. He loved what he did, he did it well and Philadelphians loved him. He will be missed by everyone who ever heard a Bill Webber broadcast.





Bill Webber started his broadcasting career in radio working during 1948 in the mailroom of an FM New York radio station after attending classes at New York University and the U of P. He worked in Lancaster before the Army put him behind a mike with the Armed Forces Radio. He came back to commercial broadcasting in Reading, where he became known in the trade as "Kiss of Death Webber." He was hired in 1953 to do the sign on of a new UHF station, WEEU-TV, Channel 33 (an NBC-TV affiliate). After a little more than a year, the station went broke and Bill signed the station off the air. Later that year he came to Philly with a Sunday shift at WPEN. Hired by Jack Steck at WFIL as a 1954 summer relief announcer, Bill eventually

became full-time at WFIL. At that time, he was given a music slot on WFIL Radio. He was picked to host "Breakfast Time," a daily, two-hour morning children's show with cartoons, weather and news. He was the voice that introduced "Bandstand" as the city's first live local color show.

In 1963, he joined WRCV Radio & TV as a disc jockey & air talent. It was Bill who played the last record on KYW Radio before it went all news. Bill also hosted the TV quiz show, "Tug-o-War." The program doubled the ratings, but was canceled to make room for a newcomer to Philadelphia, Mike Douglas. That very same week Bill was offered a chance to host the "Kids Block" on a UHF Station. In 1965, he became the first face on Channel 17 and hosted the "Wee Willie Webber Colorful Cartoon Club." It ran 3 ½ hours a day & was one of the first successful UHF programs.



After 10 years on Channel 17, Bill joined Channel 48 and hosted their "Kids Block" for three years. During all this time, Bill was a 25-year fixture at WIP Radio. He was on the radio from 10 am to 1 pm and TV from 4 to 7 pm.

From 1989 until early in 2005, Bill had also been doing a very successful radio program on WPEN where he had started in the 50s and was back there into the new millennium. In September of 2004, WPEN flipped formats to oldies. Bill and fellow Broadcast Pioneers member Ed Hurst stayed with the station into 2005 playing oldies.



In 2006, Bill Webber started doing a three-hour radio broadcast on WVLT in Vineland. In 2009, he started another radio show, this time on WHAT Radio. He kept both shows on two different stations until shortly before his death on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Bill found time to be a community volunteer serving the Easter Seal Society as a member of the board of directors for 25 years and had served as its vice president.

He was president of the Broadcast Pioneers for two years and served five years as of Chairman of the Board making him the longest serving person in that position.

Bill Webber was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 1999 and was our "Person of the Year" in 2006.

Bill "Wee Willie" Webber (1929 – 2010)