



George M. Frese

June 5, 1921 - November 23, 2018

Condensing 97 years of a full life for an amazing man into a few paragraphs, is nearly an impossible task, for he is more than the sum of the milestones of his life. But in an attempt to honor George Melvin Frese, we will do so.

George was born in Spokane, Washington on June 5, 1921 to Fred and Sadie (Penner) Frese. George's father was a City of Spokane police officer. George told stories of an adventurous childhood growing up in Spokane in the 1920's.

His most told stories included his early experiences of listening to the radio with his mother on a crystal set, tuning into programs from around the country. George developed a fascination with the technology that enabled you to hear a person speaking hundreds of miles away. In his own words, "My number one ambition became to learn how this worked." At the age of four, George began making crystal sets by dismantling old radios and using spare parts given to him. As his curiosity grew, so did his radios. In junior high and high school, he developed short-wave radio receivers, transceivers and transmitters with increasing power and sophistication. As a junior in high school he discovered that VHF radio waves reflected off of airplanes, allowing him to calculate how far away an airplane was, how fast it was traveling and in what direction, naming his system "The Airplane Detector." Eager to share this incredible technology, he naively wrote to the US government and was disappointed when they did not respond. He then decided to share his "invention" with the government of England instead, believing it could be useful in their defense against the German Luftwaffe. This letter resulted in a visit from the FBI and the eventual military testing of his "Airplane Detector".

George's expertise in broadcast engineering led him to Washington State University to continue his education, graduating with a degree in Engineering. He was a proud Cougar, able to belt out the Cougar fight song on command.

George met his first wife Mollie while in Pullman. In May of 1944 George entered the Army, attended Basic Training and then Officers Candidate School. While stationed at Fort

Monmouth, their first child, Joan was born in November of 1944. His second daughter Suzette arrived in April of 1946. George's military career was filled with unusual experiences and circumstances. Many are explained in his autobiography "Lost History and a Bizarre Mystery." Following his military service, their son Glen and daughter Lorene were born.

George worked for KPQ as a radio engineer early in his career. George ventured out on his own, becoming a sought after engineering consultant of radio and television stations around the country. He is regarded as the father of modern broadcast audio processing for his invention of the Frese Audio Pilot, which was a pioneering breakthrough and improved the sound of a radio station's broadcast signals. He obtained his first Amateur Radio "C" License in Jr. High. He was a proud and active Ham radio operator all of his life, with an Amateur Extra license, call sign AA7H.

In 1961, George married Rosemary Crimmins. Rosemary's children Richard, Linda and Laurel Jacobsen joined the family. They were happily married for over 56 years. They were members of Central Christian (Cornerstone) Church most of their married life. George was an avid student of the Bible, having read it many times.

All of these milestones were the frame work of a life well lived. But what made George special was the moments in between. He was goofy. He told us some of the dumbest "George and Joe" jokes, over and over, making us laugh. He truly cared about his family and friends. He worried about them and he prayed for them. He had more uses for duct tape than you can possibly imagine. He once gave Rosemary 100 numbered greeting cards, placed around the house as an apology. He was amazingly intelligent and could hold his own on just about any subject. He loved to exercise, playing organized softball and badminton into his 80's. He was a master popcorn maker, enjoyed playing the violin and playing classic music very loudly. He could "engineer" almost any device he needed. He was a good man, father, grandfather and friend. He will be missed.

George died on November 23, 2018. He is survived by his son Glen Frese (Sue), daughters Joan Frese Lazarus (Jonathan), Suzette Frese Harkin (John), Lorene Frese Woody (Mike), step-son Richard Jacobsen, step-daughters Laurel Jacobsen Fife (Jim) and Linda Jacobsen Stuart and his first grandchild Tami Jacobsen Gurnard (Joe), who he raised as his own. He also is survived by numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and treasured friends. George was preceded in death by his father Frederick, his mother Sadie, his sister Shirley Frese Woods, and his beloved wife Rosemary.

A service will be held May 4, 2019 at Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home, Wenatchee,

WA.

Events

MAY **Celebration of Life Service** 02:00PM

4

Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home

302 9thStreet, Wenatchee, WA, US, 98801

Comments



“ Hi, I'm the editor of the trade publication Radio World, and I am trying to reach the Frese family for permission to publish his photo to accompany a letter to the editor that celebrated his work on the Audio Pilot processor. If a family member can email me I can provide details. I'm at radioworld@futurenet.com. Many thanks. - Paul McLane

Paul - October 22, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home - May 01, 2019 at 05:56 PM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home - April 30, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ I first met George at KMBY, Monterey, CA in the early 70's, I was morning drive air talent, Asst. PD & Asst. Chief Engineer. George came to KMBY to install a Audio Pilot, a incredible modulation device that made your station sound LOUD and clean. He spent almost a week with us making improvements in our transmitter. He was a very kind and caring person. He was a inventor of no comparison. With the Audio Pilot we modulated at 99.5% on negative peaks and 165-170% on positive peaks, all legal. The FCC had to pass a 125% limit, on positive peaks because of George's Audio Pilot after a few years of his device being on the air. Although a station was still loud and clean at the reduced 125% level. We were beating a station that was 5,000 watts, same format as KMBY, Top-40., and we were only 1,000 watts and covered like 10,000..George will be missed. My kind thoughts to his family. There will be no one like him again. Best Regards, Scotty Johnson.

Scotty Johnson - February 26, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ I never met George in person but we had many long conversations about how to get the most out of his famous Audio Pilot. I was program director of a radio station in Monterey, CA that owned an Audio Pilot. I put the device back in service in 1982, I had no idea how it worked and George was so generous with his time and he was always available to talk about the Audio Pilot with me. I have never forgotten his kindness and after all these years I am more impressed than ever by George Frese and his invention

Mark Carbonaro - January 19, 2019 at 11:03 PM