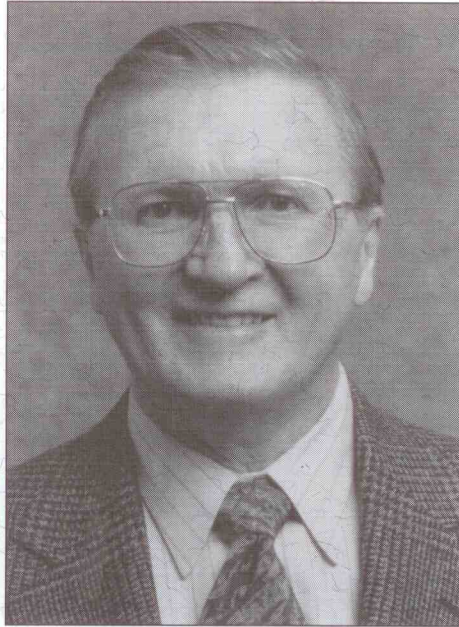


Eugene Cartwright



A Chicago television pioneer, Gene Cartwright was one of the first television engineers hired in 1948 by NBC in Chicago. In fact, his entire technical career is a string of 'firsts'.

After the war years, as a radio operator in the military, Cartwright helped build the Chicago television studios for NBC Station WNBQ. He was a crewmember at the very birth of the 'Chicago School' working on live network shows originating from Channel 5 in Chicago. These shows included *Kukla, Fran and Ollie*, *Garroway at Large*, and *Hawkins Falls*.

In 1956, Gene helped originate the first color broadcast from Channel 5 when it became the first all-color television station in the country. Additionally, he was also involved in a number of firsts for network coverage, including the 1969 launch of the Apollo 11 mission when man first walked on the moon.

At a time when many still doubted the effectiveness and quality of mobile video tape production, Gene helped blaze the trail. Video production greatly altered film coverage of news and programming with the advent of the VITMU (Video Tape Mobile Unit) and Gene was involved. In 1975, he was recognized for *Listen to the Land* - Channel 5's first all-video, prime time special - for which he won a rarely-awarded Chicago Emmy for technical excellence.

He moved into broadcast management at WMAQ-TV, rising to Director of Engineering and Technical Operations, and eventually transferred to NBC in Burbank, where he oversaw all technical aspects of one of the largest news operations in the country.

After more than four decades with NBC, Gene retired in 1990. His attitude and achievements are summed up best by his favorite quote: "I never woke up dreading to go to work. It was a joy and a privilege."