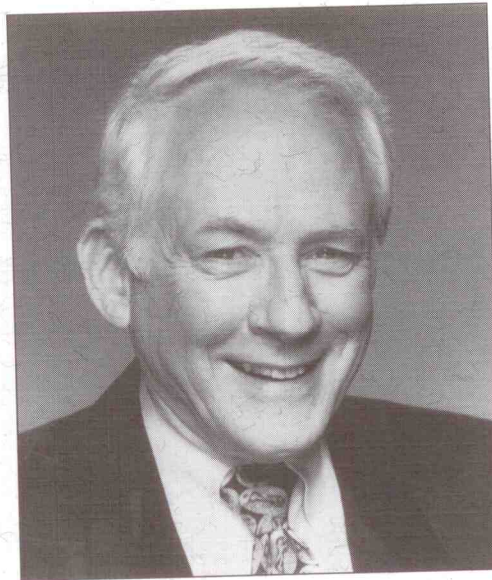


Harry Volkman



At age 12, after the great hurricane of 1938, Harry Volkman decided to become a meteorologist.

His career was launched on Christmas, 1939, in Medford, Massachusetts when his mother gave him a radio transmitter that broadcast from the attic of his home to the living room. His fascination with weather and broadcasting continued to flourish through high school and a distinguished military career.

In 1948, KOTV in Tulsa, Oklahoma, gave Volkman his first break. An incident that took place during the Spring of '52 in 'tornado country' at WKY-TV, Oklahoma City, built his reputation as a weathercaster who knew his stuff. During his first week on the job his boss ordered him to broadcast a tornado forecast pirated from the Air Force Severe Weather Group. At the time, it was illegal to broadcast tornado alerts (widespread panic was feared). The public response and acclaim for Volkman and the station was overwhelming. As a result, national policy was changed.

A decade later, he beat out 25 other candidates to replace Chicago's first weatherman Clint Youle at Channel 5.

Three Chicago Emmys and forty years later he also has the distinction of working at more Chicago stations for more tenures than any other weather forecaster: WMAQ-TV (1959-1967; 1970-1974); WGN-TV (1967-1970, 1974-1978); WBBM-TV (1978-1996); and now at WFLD-TV, FOX 32.

Volkman's proudest moments are those he spends in schools, churches, colleges, civic clubs and hospitals all over Chicagoland describing the science of weather. Through the years, he has made more than 9,000 such appearances and is the most boutonniere weathercaster in America.