Jack Taylor

Jack Taylor had one of those moments in high school, when a teacher told him he had a good voice for radio. The next day, he hitchhiked 250 miles to Yankton, South Dakota, and went to the radio station to find work. The local D.J. put him on the air, interviewed him, and let him dedicate a song to his girlfriend. The bug bit him—and he has been in broadcasting for 54 years.

Taylor’s time in the U.S. Army found him in Armed Forces Radio. From there it was an easy step to his first professional job as a staff announcer at WINN in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1950, he moved to Chicago to work for WCFL.

Four years later, he joined CBS’ new station, WBBM-TV. Taylor did the morning news without prompters, and the commercials were done live. He remembers pacing the halls with Lee Phillip, she memorizing Coca-Cola spots, he working on the Pepsi ads.

Taylor moved to WGN-TV in 1958, where his star continued to rise in what he considers the most productive years of his career. He anchored The 10 O’Clock News, where the station enjoyed top ratings in its time slot. Taylor did work he was very proud of, including a series called, "Crisis at Cook County Hospital". Only one story made him weep on the air, when he had to report that a child died after falling down a well.

Taylor joined Weigel Broadcasting in 1985, where he was the principle anchor of The Stock Market Observer on WCIU—The U until 2000. With the launch of Weigel’s latest programming innovation—a convergent 24 hour network of television and streaming video online—Taylor currently anchors WebFN, which simulcasts global business and financial news on Channel 23 Chicago and Channel 41 Milwaukee and on the Internet. “The sun never sets on WebFN” and the same can be said of 50-year broadcast veteran Jack Taylor who has been part of every medium from radio to television to the Internet.