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New cast of characters on radio's dawn patrol

Mere mention of Manton's talks with the Loop cost him his job as a contributor to Steve Dahl's afternoon show on Infinity Broadcasting's WCKG-FM (105.9).

In the latest Arbitron quarterly survey, the Loop ranked 19th in mornings with a 2.0 percent audience share and a cumulative weekly audience of 269,400.

◆ The newest addition to the morning radio scene, Paul Perry, signed on this week at oldies **WJMK-FM (104.3)**. The former morning host at WODS-FM in Boston and WWBB-FM in Providence, R.I., has the dubious honor of following a local radio legend. John Records Landecker lasted an amazing 10 years at the Infinity station before his underperforming ratings finally caught up with him last August.

In the latest Arbitron survey, WJMK tied for 12th place in mornings with a 2.7 share and a weekly cume of 305,700.

◆ Bill Leff breathed new life into **WNND-FM (100.3)** when he joined the Bonneville adult-contemporary station as morning host in July. It was a very well-deserved solo break for the lifelong Chicagoan and veteran stand-up comic who'd played second fiddle to Wendy Snyder at the Loop and **WKQX-FM (101.1)** and later to Melissa Forman at **WLIT-FM (93.9)**.

In the latest Arbitron survey, WNND ranked 25th in mornings with a 1.4 share and a weekly cume of 202,900.

◆ Big John Howell is living proof of why you shouldn't burn bridges. Last March, after 14 years at **WUSN-FM (99.5)**, Howell was unceremoniously dumped as morning host at the Infinity country station. To avoid paying him a hefty severance, Infinity reassigned him to afternoons at WJMK. But that gig lasted only four months.

However, Howell's luck brightened considerably in September when he returned in triumph to **US-99.5**, replacing the man who replaced him. (Tom Rivers took on full-time duties as operations manager and program director.)

Talk about supreme vindication.

In the latest Arbitron survey, WUSN ranked sixth in mornings with a 4.2 share and a weekly cume of 388,500.

◆ Two of Chicago radio's biggest stars of the 1970s and '80s, Larry Lujack and Tommy Edwards, are back together again, reprising their "Animal Stories" partnership from the Top 40 heyday of **WLS-AM (890)**. This time, Ol' Uncle Lar is serving as co-host of Li'l Tommy's morning show on **WRLL-AM (1690)**, Clear Channel Communications' new "Real Oldies" oldies.

(For the record, Edwards broadcasts the show from Clear Channel studios in Chicago, while Lujack phones in his part from Sante Fe, N.M.)

Since the station just signed on in early October, it's too soon for any ratings on the show.

Dialing: John Drury Awards

◆ **John Drury**, the former WLS-Channel 7 news anchor who retired last year after five decades in broadcasting, will be on hand Nov. 15 to present the awards that bear his name at North Central College in Naperville.

The second annual John Drury High School Radio Awards will recognize broadcast excellence at high school stations. This year's recipients include Lyons Township High School and Glenbrook South High School.

◆ **Patrick Hayes**, former morning personality at **KKLS-FM** in Sioux Falls, S.D., signs on Monday as morning host at northwest suburban **WZSR-FM (105.5)**. Hayes, whose real name is **Patrick Kucera**, succeeds the duo of **Michael Chew** and **Carol Vonn**, who left "Star 105.5" for **WRIT-FM** in Milwaukee.

◆ Condolences to the family of longtime Chicago radio executive **Charles Mootry**, who died Friday after a long illness. He was 55. Mr. Mootry, who held top jobs at **WVON-AM (1450)** and the old **WJPC**, also headed broadcasting for Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Co.