

WHUB's 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
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Radio An Infant In '40

When WHUB went on the air in July, 1940, there were only 3 other radio stations operating in middle Tennessee. Most of the other stations were in the metropolitan areas, with additional stations in the Tri-Cities and in Jackson.

Thus, radio was truly in its infancy in 1940, and WHUB was not only a groundbreaking enterprise for this region, but for the state as well.

Only 22 years before that fateful day in 1940, news that World War I had ended was flashed across the world - - not by the voice of a newscaster - - but by the dots and dashes of Morse Code.

Shortly after World War I ended, the electron tube was invented, and this revolutionary break-through opened the door to an amazing wonderland of sound.

Two years later in 1920, news that Republican Warren G. Harding had swamped Democrat James Cox in the Presidential election came over voice broadcasting courtesy of radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh. The news of Harding's victory, however, was heard by less than 1,000 radio listeners.

And while those who had radio sets could hear news and entertainment during the 1920's and 1930's in the Upper Cumberland, it was the coming of WHUB in 1940 which filled, as one person put it, "a great void" for this area.



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**EARLY ANNOUNCER:** Tom Harris was an early mainstay at WHUB from just after the station went on the air until the early 1970's. His good nature and witty comments made him a popular figure at WHUB.