



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Dave Chenoweth

1931 – 2019

David Chenoweth, known by virtually everyone who sought assistance while working on Collins/Continental FM transmitters passed away earlier this year at home in Longview TX, surrounded by family. He was 88.



**David Howard Chenoweth, Jr.
February 24, 1931 – February 25, 2019**

Dave was born on February 24, 1931 to David Howard Sr. and Fontella Chenoweth in Orange, Texas.

After school, Dave served in the Navy, a veteran of the Korean War. Post-War, he worked for defense and commercial contractors Philco, and in 1958 joined Collins Radio (later Rockwell International, and, in 1980, Continental Electronics), becoming head of the Broadcast Field Service division.

He also married his childhood sweetheart, Dorothy Ellis, for a marriage lasting 64 years.

John Abdnour recalls: *“For decades, Dave Chenoweth managed the customer service department at Collins Radio and then Continental. His technical ability was exceeded only by his calm mannerism and ability to keep a sometimes panic stricken engineer at ease.”*

“Dave embraced the travel which came with the job, crisscrossing North America often in his Suburban with his beloved wife Dorothy in the passenger seat.”

John continues: *“At NAB, he would be surrounded by current and potential transmitter users seeking the wisdom of his experience. During all those decades at Collins and Continental, Dave was teamed with Ken Branton, another now retired transmitter genius.”* As the Collins/Continental 831 and 816 series of FM transmitters became the choice of many broadcast companies, both Dave and Ken became legendary for their intimate knowledge of the product.

Dave and Ken took thousands of calls over the years from stressed engineers, calming them with patient assistance. As Abdnour recalls: *both were known to take phone calls in the middle of the night to help get a transmitter back on the air - and not even need to turn the lights on!”*

Dave reported he always enjoyed talking with them: “I used to tell my bosses, “*These people aren’t complaining, they’re asking for help.*’ *And when we could give them the help, they were really appreciative.*”

It was during Dave’s time that one of his most memorable “fixes” was needed by many stations. After numerous stations using the “*Power Rock*” 5 kW transmitter reported being knocked off the air every time they played Crystal Gayle’s “*Don’t it May My Brown Eyes Blue.*” Dave’s team found the problem and relieved the strain on engineers all over the country.

Dave retired from Continental in the early 2000’s. When asked what he was doing then, Chenoweth was quick with an answer: “*Nothing, which I’ve learned to do very well.*”

In July of 2008, Dave was added to the *Radio Guide* **Hall of Achievement**, along with teammate Branton.

Dave is survived by his children: Barbara Simpson (Rick); David Chenoweth (Sara); Paul Chenoweth (Rhonda); and Nancy Whittenberg (Clay), grandchildren, and his great grandkids:

Our sincere thanks for John Abdnour’s help in producing this document.

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