



Robert J. Devine *1936-2013* K8ZFW of Richfield Ohio deserves a well earned spot with the K8CX Ham Gallery. Bob and wife Wanda of Richfield, Ohio a Christian family man, teacher, writer, program director, announcer and above all his impressive walk with Christ, a 40 year Broadcasting Employee at WCRF in Brecksville, Ohio. Bob reminded me most of being a pastor and teacher, even though he was not ordained, but having a mastery of the Holy Bible. Bob attended and studied at Bob Jones University Greenville S.C. and Moody Bible Institute Chicago.

Born in Walton NY (fertile farm region) per Ancestry records To Rev. John Henry Devine (Irish immigrant) and Rev. Ida F. Will Devine (Bible teacher and pastor) John Henry Devine arrived in this country from Great Britain in

1907. Unfortunately Bob's father John expired in 1942 far too early in life when our subject was only six years of age. Bob got the radio bug at age 12 years in Walton NY upon listening to the trappings of the radio broadcast and a few years later building a crystal receiver. He was influenced to bible school by his church pastor in Walton NY. Devine's mother Ida carried on as pastor at the church until retirement where Bob's father ministered at Walton.

At 16 years our farm boy Bob earned his First Class Radio Telephone Ticket which entitled him a position in radio engineering. He landed a job with WDLA in Walton frequency of 1270kc., he was known as a Combo-Man (Engineering and announcer duties) He enjoyed his work playing country and secular music and known as Cactus Bob on the air! With this activity occurring while he was a student at Walton High School in 1952- 1953. WDLA went on the air in 1951 and at one point K2ACF Philip Vessey was station engineer in the 80s. We have asked Vessey for data.

Years pass and Bob with Moody in Cleveland, Mr. Devine the very essence of the Morning Show starting at 0515 !!! Complete with Red the Rooster sound effects. He was in there like clock work, rain, sleet nor snow could keep him away from the station and with at times using his ancestry of Irish brogue. He usually gave his wife Wanda a lot of the credit of his successful life over the air.

Like father, like son; Bob's father Rev John Henry Devine an Irish emigrant who was one of eight children who became a seafarer in food services, poultry for the famous British White Star Line making many trips to the U.S.A., John saved on the streets of NYC - became a street evangelist and a staff member with Director Rev. Terence MaGowan, of Christ's Mission Mecca Temple Brooklyn. John's testimony being converted in street evangelism serving at Christ's Mission who saw the value of radio and utilized it over WHAP 1300 Khz in Manhattan to reach the world with their broadcasts. Rev. John Devine made broadcasts over the radio medium which his own son would do in the ages to come. (I've often wondered if Bob Devine was aware of his father's broadcasting history in Manhattan and Brooklyn N.Y.)

Our subject was born Robert J. Devine 17 Sept 1936 held an amateur radio ticket (K8ZFW) He was honored by Induction to the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1990. I believe at one point he did some 20M SSB work, using a Heath transceiver to missionaries overseas. Bob and sister Alice played in the Walton H.S. Band in 1953. - His older sister Jean K. Devine Voight 1934-1983 was a Bob Jones Grad earned a degree in education 1956. She also played an instrument in the Bob Jones ensemble and on the Deans list in 1954. Continued on page two....

Your author can recall going in very early on occasion working over the WCRF transmitter in down periods with engineer Bartlebaugh making sure the 10 KW power output got up into the antenna system and viewing Bob host of the "Clockwatcher" hard at work running the volume max up and down with the station microphone volume pad. There didn't seem to be enough AFC compression control for his needs. His hands should have been worn after running the volume controls. Good work Bob! (I can still see the deer in the middle of the highway at 0500 in the morning at Brecksville running along side of my vehicle leaving the transmitter studio.)

Among Bob's accomplishments, produced and developed Nation wide Moody respected youth program's Nature Corner and Story Book Room where he was chief cook and bottle washer of the operation, he wrote and directed/recorded every session and utilized a vox constructor for special voice effects doing hundreds of voice effects. Those programs were played daily and network around 4 PM and on weekends. Your author must be a kid at heart because I also enjoyed those broadcasts.

It was a shock to awaken one morning finding Bob A.W.O.L. as he retired in 2000. Devine allowed the listener to know him personally, that is a trait not seen very often in this present age. One of the things I enjoyed most about Bob was his selection of music in the 80's and 90's he would not play the nuance tunes which some older believers don't deal with in these times.

It is possible most everyone at daybreak in Cleveland region knew Red the Rooster, The Clockwatcher Bob Devine from 103.3 WCRF. Believe it or not; ARBITRON Ratings, Bob had em!

Just 8 months after WCRF signed on the air, Bob Devine joined the staff. "If I would have mapped out every one of my 40 years at WCRF, I would have sorely short-changed myself and the ministry." Bob recorded segments at the local Malls and interviewed people who willingly would talk about their Christian walk or show interest in Christianity. Only a few would not chat over the mike.

God had a far higher plan for my work." Eph 3:20 To Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask or think. I thought my work would be spinning records, giving breaks and reading the news. Right away I was asked to produce a children's program. I fearfully called on God for the "exceeding" part and Nature Corner was born.

Morning programs were absent in the early years of WCRF. When the time came, the manager asked me (BD) to be the host, since I used to get up early as a farm boy. God taught me early on that I'd be a failure unless I called on Him every morning to cleanse me from sin, fill me with His righteousness and put His words in my mouth.

I have watched as God's Word has drawn many to Christ and called many believers to full time service in the ministry and on the job. Is God still active at WCRF today? Absolutely! Microprocessors have replaced tubes, computers have bid LP's goodbye (or have they?) but the music and teaching still speak to each generation - that only Jesus can deliver from sin and satisfy our hearts. Scripting (From the Fall/Winter 1999/2000 Radio Guide)

Bob's brother Paul R. Devine and Paul's twin sister Alice also attended Walton Central High in 1957 and Paul entered the USAF 23 Dec 1961 to Basic Lackland AFB San Antonio. We lost track of Paul but he did reside in Exeter PA, Dorchester Ma and Quincy Ma in 1996. The Devine parents Ida and John rest at Village Cemetery Walton NY. - We thank Tom K8CX for the bandwidth in hope we have learned a few new things about this servant who is still with us in heart and memory. Bob had to suffer so much before his Homecoming, but he kept in the fight to the very end. Thank you (K8ZFW) for always making me feel welcome. W8SU 2018