



GOLD & SILVER CIRCLE PROFILES

by Kevin Wing



He was a veteran radio and television commentator and the first "Voice of America" who eventually became an expert on international affairs. Later, during the early years of Bay Area television, he became known as San Francisco's "first anchorman" after he began appearing on KGO-TV and KPIX in San Francisco.

His name was **William Winter**. He was not only a broadcasting big shot in the Bay Area, but he was known throughout the country and around the world. Winter had spent decades as a war correspondent and network news analyst, long before Bay Area viewers started to watch him on the evening news throughout the 1950s.

Winter, who died in November 1999, was inducted into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 1990.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, the Bay Area was a faraway place for Winter at that time. He grew up in North Carolina and studied law privately while working in a law office. Several months before he turned 21, Winter passed the state bar exam, becoming the youngest attorney in the United States at that time.

He worked as a trial lawyer for an insurance company in New York, then returned to North Carolina, where one of his clients was a radio network. Because of his grasp of international law and current events, he was asked to become a radio news analyst. In 1935, he gave up law and took on the radio airwaves.

In 1941, CBS Radio transferred Winter to San Francisco, where he would offer a daily network news analysis, focusing on the United States' international relations. After the director of the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation of Singapore asked to relay Winter's commentaries throughout Asia via shortwave radio, the United States decided in September of that year - only months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II - to make Winter its first State Department-sponsored "Voice of America".

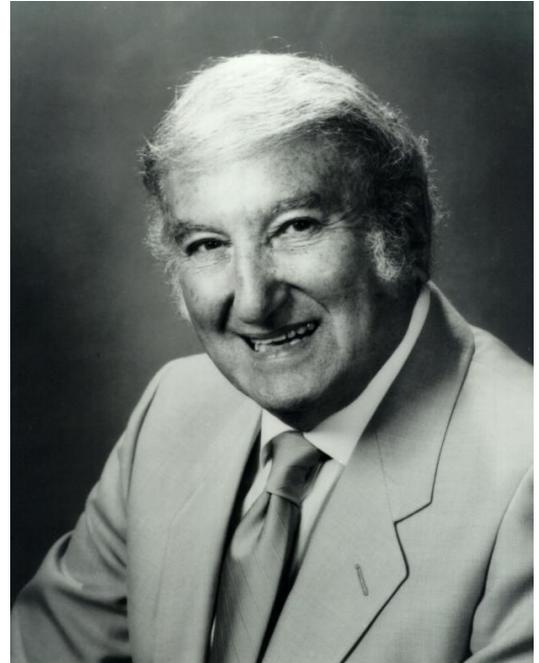
In Winter's daily broadcasts, he assured Asians that the United States, although not in the war at that time, was concerned about protecting Asians. Winter also offered even-handed explanations of democracy and freedom of expression, supporting his comments with quotations from American interventionists and isolationists alike.

During the final two years of World War II, when Winter would accompany Gen. **Douglas MacArthur**, Winter became so reviled by Japan's Radio Tokyo that it aired a play featuring three men barred from Heaven because of their wickedness - President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, **Winston Churchill**, and Winter.

Winter, in 1945, covered the United Nations Charter Conference in San Francisco for the State Department. He then covered the Korean War for the United Nations.

Winter anchored KGO-TV's news in the 1950s, then went to work for KPIX, where he anchored *William Winter & The News*, from 1955 to 1960.

In 1955, Winter was also a television news analyst for ABC.



In his later years, Winter became a sought-after speaker on international affairs at university campuses and conferences around the world. He also taught extension courses at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He also organized the William Winter Study Tours, leading various groups to far-flung venues from Africa and the Soviet Union to India and the Philippines.

Winter and his wife, Peggy, eventually relocated to southern California.

Winter died Nov. 3, 1999, in Woodland Hills, leaving behind a legacy that remains here in the Bay Area.

Reno's First TV Station Celebrates Six Decades *Original Staffers, Dignitaries Among 250 At Birthday Bash*

By Terri Russell
Vice President, Reno

KOLO, Reno's first television station, celebrated its 60th anniversary at its Ampere Drive studios Oct. 11, with 250 guests and community leaders attending an open house to mark the occasion.



Rich History

KOLO's "**Zombo**" greets two of the station's original employees: **Tom Hughes**, top right, and **Durward Wasmer**.

Dignitaries and some of KZTV's first employees attended to help the station and staff celebrate KOLO's rich tradition in Nevada's broadcast industry.

Station events will continue until the end of the year, including a station entry in the Nevada Day Parade; and the largest statehood celebration in the country.

Veteran KOLO reporter **Ed Pearce** will continue his "Throwback Thursdays" series, looking at the history of KOLO and its influence in northern Nevada.

During the November sweeps period, viewers will get a chance to win a diamond ring every week in recognition of the station's diamond anniversary.

Those guests were greeted at the front door and encouraged to tour the station and sample a menu that reflected various decades in which KOLO has been on the air.

The exact 60th anniversary was on Sept. 27. The station signed on in 1953 as KZTV, the first northern Nevada television station to hit the airwaves.

However, because September was a busy month with community events like the Reno Championship Air Races and Street Vibrations, News Director **Jennifer Hardy** wanted to accommodate as many people as possible.

"We wanted to make sure as many of our friends could attend the birthday party," Hardy says. "We pushed the date to mid-October."

Hardy says a small group of employees from sales, news and production helped plan the festivities.



The Legacy Continues

Bob Carroll, left, KOLO's first news director, reminisces with anchor **Pat Hambright**.