

Disc Jockey.....11-2-20....Hap Hansen

I was drafted into the Army in the early fifties. After basic training, the Army sent me to Construction Foreman school in Ft. Belvoir, VA. After training, I was sent to Anderson Air Force Base on Guam. Our job was to extend the airstrip to accommodate larger bombers.

I heard an ad on our only radio station that they were looking for a radio announcer/DJ to replace an announcer that was being discharged. I got the job! The man I replaced was Hap Mahaffey, who among other things, had a show called Hap's Hideaway. The station wanted to continue what was a popular show among the G.I.s, so I became Hap Hansen! A nickname that is still with me!

I had one program that featured popular singers of the time; Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Ray Charles, Al Jolson, Theresa Brewer, Kay Starr, Joni James and many more. My favorite show was 'Candlelight and Silver', featuring Big Bands of the thirties and forties. Montovani, Glenn Miller, Ray Conniff, Stan Kenton, Ray Anthony, Harry James, Mitch Miller and Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra were some of the favorites. Remember? After discharge, I came home to Nebraska and applied to several area radio stations for a job. I was accepted at KAWL, York, Nebraska for weekday DJ programs and KLMS in Lincoln on weekends. Hap's Hideaway and Candlelight and Silver continued. In York, management initially assigned me to a DJ program for high school students. I had to play rock and roll music until my ears hurt! Once, I introduced a new singer. I put the record on the turntable and after just a few bars, I opened the mike and said, "That is the worst piece of music I have ever heard"! I broke the record on the air with a 'snap'. The record was 'Hound Dog' by Elvis Presley! The station's three phone lines immediately lit up! Angry teenagers were berating me for what I had done. I had to go buy that record and play it on the teenage show for months! By the way, it is still a bad record! Although, his later in life music and spirituals were really quite good.

Today, I still enjoy listening to classical and semi-classical music. Hap's Hideaway is long gone, but fortunately, Hap is still here!