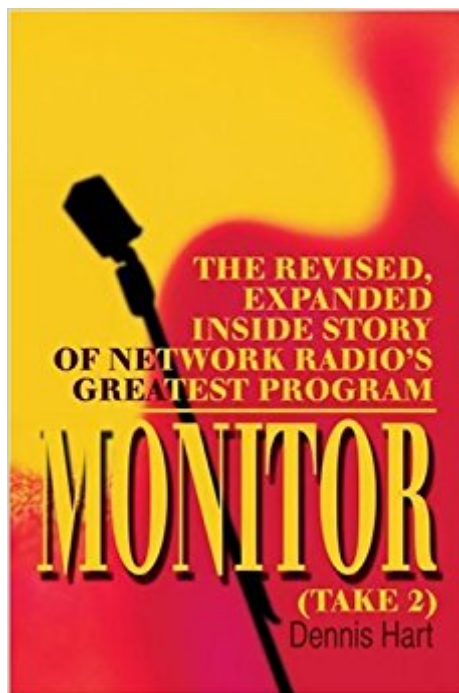




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Monitor (Take 2): The Revised, Expanded Inside Story Of Network Radio's Greatest Program



Synopsis

For two decades starting in 1955, millions of Americans spent their weekends listening to an extraordinary radio program-NBC's Monitor. Running continuously from Saturday morning through Sunday night, Monitor featured big-name hosts like Dave Garroway, Hugh Downs, Gene Rayburn, Ed McMahon, Henry Morgan, Barry Nelson, Joe Garagiola, Bill Cullen, Jim Lowe and Murray the K-all broadcasting from mammoth studios called "Radio Central." Monitor spotlighted a galaxy of feature reporters such as Arlene Francis, Gene Shalit, Bob Considine and Mel Allen. Comedy came from Bob and Ray, Nichols and May and Ernie Kovacs-and "Miss Monitor" gave her unforgettable weather forecasts. This is the vastly expanded, revised edition of Dennis Hart's inside look at Monitor. Included are dozens of new, never-before-told stories about the men and women of Monitor. Readers will discover-or remember-what made Monitor such a "must-listen" experience in the mid-20th century-and learn, for the first time, the real story about the death of America's last great radio show. Monitor (Take 2) is the "last word" about a true broadcasting institution.

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Customer Reviews

Dennis Hart teaches Mass Communication and Journalism at California State University, Fresno. He spent 20 years in broadcasting in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit, Atlanta, Phoenix and Fresno. He won numerous awards, including an Emmy, plus awards from the Associated Press, United Press International and the San Francisco Bay Area Press Club.

Fantastic history of Monitor, the NBC weekend radio program from 1955 to 1975. It brought back

many, many memories of weekend radio listening in the car, going up to the Huntington, WV, area from Cincinnati and back to visit grandparents and other relatives. Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons were when the car radio in our Mercury, Buick, or Oldsmobile wagons was tuned to WLW in Cincinnati. I remember (and this book brought back vividly!) the Monitor announcers, the theme music, commercials of longtime sponsors, the comedians, the music, and so many other memories. All these are interlaced with the wind in my face from the car window, the endlessly varied vistas of the beautiful Ohio River, warmth of a summer weekend, cornfields and tobacco fields, river shacks, towboats with large rafts of barges, N&W trains charging up and down the tracks along the river -- all now long gone. If you remember Monitor, your other associated memories may be very different from mine. However, Monitor in the background will come flooding back to you with this book, and your own happy memories with it, as you read this wonderful retrospective.

Really enjoyed reading this and learning so much that I didn't know about Monitor. I've always been a radio fan, worked in broadcasting, and have always loved the old radio shows that I grew up listening to (and still hear, on tape and CD). But, for some strange reason I never really cared for the appearances by some of the old stars on Monitor. I think it was because I was so familiar with their original shows done, so often, before a live audience. At one time I worked for an NBC affiliate, and heard the program there or on other stations on a regular basis. But I never really gave it much thought, and certainly didn't know any of the details written in this book. If you're a radio fan, I think you'll enjoy reading it very much.

I listened to this show for hours and hours on weekends as a kid and never have gotten over its cancellation (even the NBC Radio Network was eventually cancelled.) But Dennis has done his homework and brought it all back in the written form for us to enjoy. No illustrations in the book, but that's what the Monitor Tribute pages on the internet are for. I'm hoping enough new info will become available someday for a Volume Two.

I purchased this book, first, because of my affectionate memories of NBC Monitor; second, because of its glowing reviews. The latter are not unwarranted: Hart has done his homework, as confirmed by many interviews with those who made the show happen. Hart's love for the subject glistens on every page. My dissatisfaction with the book lies in its lack of deep analysis. It is primarily a chronicle of the creation, rise, and fall of one of America's finest endeavors in broadcast journalism and entertainment. One could learn nearly as much by consulting the author's webpage on the

subject--which is graced with photographs of the leading figures, none of which is reproduced in the book. Through no fault of the author, the book is suffused with elegy for a world that apparently no longer wants what Monitor uniquely provided: radio that brings us the world in its fullness with charity, wit, and intelligence. Requiescat in pace, Monitor. Your like we shall never see again.

Monitor Take 2, like the first Monitor book is a great look at a part of radio that was remarkable. It goes farther into the show and those that were a part of it. Oh that radio could be like that today. Take 2 shows behind the scenes and we can almost hear the monitor beacon in the background. I enjoyed reminiscing hearing the names and events that were a part of Monitor. It's worth reading and remembering great days of radio.

I worked on Monitor for 5 years and this book brings back wonderful memories.

As a former freelance reporter for the NBC Monitor program I was reminded of those fun days of creating images for the mind from various locations throughout our country. What an exciting time it was and what a wonderfully fun read this book presents.

Take 2 is indeed the expanded, inside story of Monitor. I was a newscaster on Monitor during its final years, working with many of the communicators who provide their own memories of this great radio service. Dennis Hart does a marvelous job of providing word pictures of the dedicated staff behind the scenes, besides the on-air people who kept Monitor on the air for almost 20 years

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