

**A GUIDE TO THE PAPERS OF  
GEORGE GEESEY**

National Public Broadcasting Archives  
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Elizabeth C. Borja, May 2000  
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6.0 lin. ft.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

George Geesey was born on January 20, 1933 in Hagerstown, Maryland. He graduated from Hagerstown High School in 1950 and attended Hagerstown Junior College for two years. In 1952, he transferred to American University, graduating in 1954. He also attended two years of graduate study at American University.

Geesey also graduated from the Electronics Theory and Operation courses at the Army Signal School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He was certified after six months of training in Fixed Station Terminal and radio equipment operation at the U.S. Navy Research Lab and the Army Map Service in Washington, DC.

In 1958, Geesey was certified in Electronic Instrument Repair and Satellite Tracking Equipment at the Satellite Tracking Station of Fort Stewart, Georgia, where the United States tracked the first Sputnik and Vanguard satellites.

In 1961, Geesey became the first manager of WAMU-FM radio station at the American University. This station began at the same time as the establishment of the Eastern Educational Radio Network (EERN), which connected public radio stations in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington by a live terrestrial network line so that each of the four stations could originate material for the others to broadcast.

Geesey brought this network experience with him when he became the Director of Operations (and Engineering) for National Public Radio (NPR) in November 1970. He was the eleventh person employed by NPR. In that position, he helped design and build the first studios on M Street in Washington. He conducted seminars for regional meetings for the network station managers and engineers. He also worked with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) on the development and growth of the data communications network (DACs). Geesey conducted the first national stereo audio tests by satellite and demonstrated to the stations the feasibility of NPR moving from a terrestrial network to a satellite distribution system.

In 1976, Geesey was assigned to the Satellite Interconnection System Project Office (SISPO) as the Radio Coordinator. He helped find sites for the receiving satellite at each member station and was instrumental in getting the stations to include up to fifteen uplink sites for the origination of material in to the network programming. At the end of the SISPO project, Geesey continued to work on adding another ten stations to the satellite system.

After his work with NPR, Geesey also spent time with WETA-TV and WRC-TV in Washington, DC. In 1989, he became the Chief Engineer for the television facility at The George Washington University. There he was involved in upgrading to digital equipment and the installation of satellite antennas for the 60-channel closed circuit campus cable system. Geesey retired in May 1999.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Papers of George Geesey cover the years 1971 to 1981 and contains some undated material. The bulk of the materials date from 1977 to 1981. The collection documents Geesey's career at National Public Radio, particularly his time with NPR's Satellite Interconnection System Project Office (SISPO) as Radio Coordinator. Types of materials include correspondence, technical manuals, slides, photographs, maps, contracts, newspaper and magazine clippings, newsletters, and progress charts.

The collection consists of three series:

Series 1: National Public Radio - General

Series 2: National Public Radio - Satellite Interconnection System Project Office (SISPO)

Series 3: Articles

## **PROVENANCE**

The Papers of George Geesey were donated to the University of Maryland Libraries by George Geesey in October of 1998 and in November of 2000.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

Series 1: National Public Radio – General, 1967-1978 (0.75 lin. ft.)

This series documents the early history of National Public Radio. Topics include NPR organization, the first show on NPR (*All Things Considered*), station equipment, radio engineering (in the form of NPR newsletter "Crosstalk"), and the creation of new facilities at 2025 M St NW, Washington, DC. Materials, in the form of papers, photos, and slides, are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Series 2: National Public Radio - Satellite Interconnection System Project Office (SISPO), 1971-1981 (4.85 lin. ft)

This series documents Geesey's time as Radio Coordinator of SISPO, NPR's project to create a nationwide satellite interconnection system to improve the quality and quantity of radio shows. Topics covered include the filing of lead applications before the Federal Communications Commission, site evaluation procedures, station certification, contracts with various companies, communication between various sites (in the form of the SISPO newsletter "The Ultimate High"), and manuals for the equipment necessary for the satellite linkup. The materials are arranged chronologically and by topic.

Series 3: Articles, 1965-1978 (0.40 lin. ft.)

This series consists of Geesey's collection of articles concerning various engineering topics. Although mostly focusing on satellites, these articles also deal with various engineering equipment and techniques. The materials are arranged alphabetically by author and title.

**BOX INVENTORY**

**SERIES 1: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - GENERAL**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Articles 1971-1979
	2	Correspondence and Memos 1970-1978
	3	"Crosstalk" Radio Engineering Newsletter 1973-1977
	4	Equipment 1973-1974
		Facilities
	5	Memos and Blueprints 1970-1976
	6	Slides
		2025 M St.
		Wall Details. 1972-1973
		1st Floor Details. 1972-1973
		Master Control Construction. 1972-1973
		Tape Control Area Construction. 1972-1973
		AC Wiring and Telco. 1972-1973
		1st Floor Wiring. 1972-1973
		Wiring Closet. 1972-1974
		Rack Wiring and Consoles. 1972-1974
		Pouring Floor. 1972
		Sub Flooring Details. 1972, 1974-1975
		Finishing Details on Studio. 1973-1975
		Station Supplied Shots. 1976
		Station Netcuse and Facilities. nd
		Ramah, N. Mexico [KTDB]. 1975-1976
		Organization
	7	NAEB/Jansky & Bailey. Educational Television System Maps. 1961
	8	CPB and NPR Agreement. 1974
	9	Maps of Station Interconnection System 1970-1978
	10	Decentralization Study. 1977
	11	Press Releases 1970-1975
		Reports
	12	NER (National Educational Radio). The Hidden Medium: Educational Radio. A Status Report. April 1967

## **SERIES 1: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - GENERAL**

Box	Folder	
		Reports (cont'd)
2	1	The Public Radio Study. April 1969.
		Slides and Photos
	2	Slides
		Early NPR Staff. 1973-1976, nd
		Station Supplied Visuals. 1974-1975
		CPB Board Meeting. 1975
		PRC [Public Radio Conference]. 1977
		NPR Staff Retreat. May 1978
		June 1978 [May 1977]
		TV Lead Press Conference - CPB. August 1976
		Loomis/Riley Testimony Capital Hill. August 1976
	3	Photos

## **SERIES 2: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - SATELLITE INTERCONNECTION SYSTEM PROJECT OFFICE (SISPO)**

		Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
4		Before the Federal Communications Commission. Docket No. 16495: In the Matter of Establishment of Domestic Communication Satellite Facilities by Non-government Stations: Comments of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Public Broadcasting Service....May 12, 1971
5		Before the Federal Communications Commission. Description of Public Broadcasting Satellite Interconnection Plan. Volume II. 1976
6		Filing of "Lead Applications." 1978
7		CPB and NPR Application for Satellite Interconnection submitted to the FCC. June 30, 1978
		Site Evaluation Procedures
		Reports
3	1-2	SWG Briefing Book. May 8-9, 1975 (2f)
		PBS, CPB. A Satellite Interconnection System to Serve Public Broadcasting.
	3	Draft. January 6, 1976
	4	Supplementary Information. March 1977
	5	1980 Reprint
	6	Public TV Receive-Only Terminal Site Selection project - Final Report. July 22, 1977
	7	Hufford, George A. System Coverage by the FM Broadcast Stations
	8	PBS Interconnect System Program Review. July 26, 1978

**SERIES 2: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - SATELLITE INTERCONNECTION  
SYSTEM PROJECT OFFICE (SISPO)**

Box	Folder	
4	1	NPR Satellite Interconnect System. July 26, 1978
	2	NPR Satellite Interconnect System Implementation Phase Schedule. Preliminary Submission. July 31, 1978
	3	CPB. Public Radio Satellite Interconnection System Report. 1978
		Procedures
	4	Stong, Robert W. Draft: Relationships of Subjective Impairment Caused by Interference to a Simulated NPR Satellite Link. November 17, 1976
	5-8	PBS Engineering and Technical Operations Binder. 1976
	9	Minutes of the PBS Engineering Committee. 1976
	10	Western Union. Westar Satellite System. 1976
	11	Correspondence. Thomas Gherardi. 1978
	12	Rockwell International. 4 GHZ RFI Measurement Procedures for NPR Program. 1978
	13	NPR Antenna beam, Transmit. 1978
	14	Rockwell International. NPR G/T/ Design. 1978
	15	Oxley letter: New Stations. December 20, 1978
	16	Creagh, Dave. "Station Program Resources and the National Program Service." December 1978
	17	NPR. Critical Design Review MOT/MOTIL. March 20-21, 1979
	18	Memo: Terminal Types. October 6, 1980
		Site Evaluation Procedures (cont'd)
		Procedures (cont'd)
5	1-4	Station Planning Material for Satellite Terminal (4f)
	5	NPR Satellite Earth Station System. April 28, 1980. Revised January 26, 1981
	6	Hughes. An Alternate Basic Plan for National Public Radio's Satellite Interconnect System
		Stations
	7	University of Southern California application. 1978
	8	List of New Radio Stations. January 1979
	9-12	Station Certification notes (4f)
		Contracts
	13	Contract between CPB and Rockwell International Corporation. 1976
	14	Modifications to the Contract between CPB and Rockwell International Corporation. 1976
	15	Rockwell International. Collins Proposal. Volume C. Contract. Corporation for Public Broadcasting. National Public Radio. Response to Agreement and Conditions. March 30, 1977

Box Folder

**SERIES 2: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - SATELLITE INTERCONNECTION  
SYSTEM PROJECT OFFICE (SISPO)**

		Contracts (cont'd)
6	1	Rockwell International. Collins Proposal. Amendment A. Technical. Corporation for Public Broadcasting. National Public Radio. Response to Questions. 1977
	2	Contract between Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Rockwell International. Microwave Interconnection System. April 5, 1977
	3	CPB. Satellite Interconnection System Project Office. Request for Proposals for Satellite Interconnection System. National Public Radio. Revised December 9, 1977
	4	Agreement Between Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Western Union Telegraph Company. 1978
		Manuals
		Rockwell International. National Public Radio Satellite Interconnect System Manuals
	5	Volume 1A: Receive Only (R/O) Ground Terminal System Manual (1 of 5 folders)\
		Manuals (cont'd)
		Rockwell International. National Public Radio Satellite Interconnect System Manuals (cont'd)
7	1-4	Volume 1A: Receive Only (R/O) Ground Terminal System Manual (2-5 of 5 folders)
	5-7	Volume 1B: Receive Transmit (R/T) Ground Terminal System Supplement (3f)
		Manuals (cont'd)
		Rockwell International. National Public Radio Satellite Interconnect System Manuals (cont'd)
8	1-4	Volume 1C: Power Amplifier System Manual (3f)
	5-8	Volume 1D: Transmitter Equipment Manual (4f)
	9	Volume 3A: Antenna and RF Equipment Manual
		Manuals (cont'd)
		Rockwell International. National Public Radio Satellite Interconnect System Manuals (cont'd)
9	1	Volume 3B: Parametric LNA Equipment Manual
	2	Volume 4A: R/O Telemetry Remote Control Equipment Manual
	3	Volume 4B: R/T Telemetry Remote Control Equipment Manual
	4-6	Volume 5: Territorial Interconnect Link System Supplement (3f)
	7	Rockwell International. National Public Radio Satellite Interconnect System. Student Guide. 1979
		Manuals (cont'd)
Box	Folder	

**SERIES 2: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - SATELLITE INTERCONNECTION  
SYSTEM PROJECT OFFICE (SISPO)**

9	8	Schneidewind, George E. Dial Access Communications System: Operator's Manual. PBS/NPR
		Manuals (cont'd)
10	1	Video and Program Systems: Operating Procedures. October 1, 1976
	2	Wolf Research and Development Corporation. Console Operator's Instructions: Dial Access Communications System: DACS Newsletters, Press Releases, and Clippings "The Ultimate High" Newsletter
	3	October-December 1978
	4	January-March 1979
	5	April-June 1979
	6	July-September 1979
	7	October-December 1979
	8-13	January-June 1980 (6f)
		Newsletters, Press Releases, and Clippings (cont'd)
11	1-3	Press/Releases/Clippings [1972-1981] (3f)
	4	Satellite Interconnection System Project Office (SISPO) Bulletins. 1976-1979
		Photos and Slides
	5	Photos - KSUR
	6	Photos - Party
	7	Photos - Misc. event
	8-10	Photos - Satellite construction (3f)
	11-13	Photos - Misc. (3f)
	14	Slides (1 of 3): Presentation Charts. nd MOT Construction at Bren Mar. 1972; 1977 WU Facilities at Pt. Reyes, CA. 1976-1977 Early Presentation Charts/Visuals. 1975-1977 Site Shots. 1972-1977 S.A.F.E. Field Test. nd
		Photos and Slides (cont'd)
12	1	Slides (2 of 3) Early Presentation Visuals. 1977, nd MOT and Collins Test Site MOT Ground Breaking and Construction. 1977 Vernon Valley. 1977 Collins Facilities, TX 1976-1977
Box	Folder	Photos and Slides (cont'd)
12	2	Slides (3 of 3)

**SERIES 2: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO - SATELLITE INTERCONNECTION  
SYSTEM PROJECT OFFICE (SISPO)**

Party. July 1980  
Misc. (Exterior dish shots, dinner event) 1980  
Party (Most same as photos above--including a cake shot)  
KCSN  
Misc. (Exterior shots - slides with large numbers)  
2 ft. Antenna  
Misc. Station shots. 1975-1980, nd  
Ft. Pierce, FL

**SERIES 3: ARTICLES**

- 3 Andrews. "Section 8: Calculating for Antenna Pointing"
- 4 Antenna Performance Analysis
- 5 James G. Biddle Co. "Getting Down to Earth...A Manual of Earth-  
Resistance Testing for the Practical man." 1978
- 6 Book Review: *The Zapping of America. IEEE Spectrum.* May 1978
- 7 "Conical Horns"
- 8 "3.1.0. Determination of Potentially Hazardous Areas Due to Microwave  
Radiation"
- 9 EIMAC. "Number 5 Tube Performance Computer"
- 10 Electronics Industries Association. "EIA Standard: Structural Standards  
for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures."  
March 1976.
- 11 Exhibit E: Electromagnetic Radiation levels
- 12 "GAPE - Utility Routine to Calculate Parameters of Visible Geostationary  
Satellite Arc." March 1974
- 13 "Introduction to the Traveling Wave Tube," *The Lenkhurst  
Demodulation.* Vol.14, No. 8 (August 1965)
- 14 Klipstein, D.L. "The Contributions of Edsel Murphy to the Understanding  
of the Behavior of Inanimate Objects"
- 15 Machelett Laboratories, Inc. "ML-5682 General Purpose Triode"
- 16 McCoy, C.R. "Selecting Replacements for Electric Motors"
- 17 Notes - Nat. Elec. Code Book, etc.
- 18 Ray, Louis. "Permafrost" 1978.
- 19 RCA. "Design Considerations for CATV System Construction"
- 20 Scientific Communications Inc. Equipment description
- 21 Telesat Canada. 1972. nd.
- 22 "Twelve Years of Satellite Systems"
- 23 Vogel, Wolfhard. "Graph points you toward any Synchronous Satellite"