

"THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"

ABOUT AL SPIRO

Just about everyone who knew Al Spiro will tell you he knew Al better than anyone else. That's the way Al made everyone feel. A few minutes with Al made you think you'd known him for years. This album is called "The Impossible Dream" because perhaps the words to the song best describe Al and his devotion to his dream . . . WRKL.

Al Spiro was 47 years and three days old when he died of a massive coronary. He had been in the hospital for about three (3) weeks before his death on June 3, 1968. That was a Monday. On Saturday, June 1, I visited Al . . . and all he could talk about was his plans for WRKL when he left the hospital. WRKL engineer Walt Johnson spent Sunday, June 2, discussing progress and plans for the new building. Al was always talking about his plans. Al always had some kind of plans to talk about.

As far as WRKL and Al are concerned, may we quote Pageant Magazine following the fire of 1967. They quote Al as saying . . . "Anything goes except libel and dirty words."

ABOUT THIS RECORD

The proceeds from the sale of this record will go towards a fund started by friends of Al and WRKL to raise money for an intensive care unit at Good Samaritan Hospital. Ninety per cent of the money grossed by this album will go to the fund.

As for quality . . . in keeping with the style and audio clarity that made WRKL easy to find on the radio dial . . . portions of the audio tape used in compiling this record are unclear, difficult to understand, and generally of poor quality. Some of the tapes are quite old, and many were recorded just for record keeping . . . and not record producing purposes. We hope you will bear with us.

The voices of Betty Spiro and Dick Werden were excerpted from a HOT LINE broadcast about three weeks after Al's death. Other tape portions go back to the day WRKL first went on the air . . . recorded for WRKL by WNEW, New York, where Al worked for nearly 20 years.

It's likely there is some Al Spiroism you remember that has not been included on this album. There are many items we unwillingly called out because of time limitations. Thousands of feet of tape and countless hours brought back many memories to me. I hope this album will bring back as many for you.

Art Athens

ENGINEER:

Mike Sheedy

WRITTEN AND NARRATED BY:

Art Athens

PRODUCED BY:

Thousands of WRKL listeners