Harry Bitner Sr. killed in crash

Funeral services for pioneer broadcaster-newspaperman Harry M. Bitner, 76, were held last Friday (March 7) at the Westminster Choir School Chapel at Princeton, N.J.

Mr. Bitner was killed in an automobile accident March 7 at Delray Beach, Fla. Mrs. Bitner, who was driving, was injured, but not seriously.

The newspaperman-turned-broadcaster served the Hearst organization from the turn of the century until 1949. He was at one time editor-publisher of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph and later general manager of Hearst Newspapers. While in Pittsburgh he was instrumental in acquiring WCAE Pittsburgh for the Sun-Telegram.

Mr. Bitner was born in Kutztown, Pa., Dec. 24, 1883 and attended Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. He entered personal radio station ownership in 1940 when he and associates bought WFBM Indianapolis. The group soon acquired WFDF Flint and WOOD Grand Rapids, both Michigan. Television was added to the Indianapolis and Grand Rapids outlets. In 1955 the Bitners bought WTCN -AM - TV Minneapolis, Minn., and the personal holdings were incorporated in a public stock company, Consolidated TV & Radio Broadcasters Inc. In 1957 Time Inc. bought the Indianapolis, Grand Rapids and Minneapolis outlets for a record $15.75 million.

The Bitner group at one time also owned WEOA Evansville, Ind., and WPEA Manchester, N.H. Associated with his father in broadcasting was his son Harry M. Bitner Jr. A grandson, Harry M. Bitner III, was killed in an automobile accident last December.

At the time of his death Mr. Bitner was chairman of the board of WFDF Flint, Mich., WWRI West Warwick, R.I., and WWOL Buffalo.

During his active broadcasting career, Mr. Bitner served on the NAB board, was a director and officer of the Indiana Assn. of Broadcasters and was active in Indianapolis civic organizations.

John L. March, formerly sales representative with WHK Cleveland, to KYW, that city, in similar capacity.

Rollin P. Collins Jr., formerly account executive with WBMM Chicago, to sales staff of Edward Petry Co. (station rep), that city.

John F. Brennan, formerly on sales staff of Headley-Reed, Chicago, joins radio sales staff of The Katz Agency, station rep., Minneapolis office.

Chett Carmichael, air personality with WDAS Philadelphia, named educational director.

Don Moeller, production manager of WPRO-TV Providence, R.I., appointed account executive.

Paul S. O'Brien, formerly with NTA spot sales, N.Y., named to sales staff of Broadcast Time Sales, N.Y.

Charles L. Hinshaw joins sales staff of KREM Spokane, Wash.

Dean Woodring, formerly with KIEM-TV Eureka, Calif., to KGW-TV Portland, Ore., as sales service manager, succeeding WALT HAWTHORNE, appointed merchandising manager.

J. Michael Jones, news director of WWTV (TV) Cadillac-Traverse City,

see our ad opposite page

Mr. Hardesty

JOHN F. (JACK) HARDESTY, San Francisco office, will be registered in Suite 1722-23-24 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, April 3-7, during the National Association of Broadcasters’ 88th annual convention.

Jack will appreciate hearing from you prior and during the convention in the-

HAMILTON-LANDIS & ASSOCIATES

— suite.

Mr. Bitner

Harry Bitner Sr.