

*It could happen to you... or the*  
strange, strange story of two 52 week contracts

*by Norm Glenn*

To begin with, this is a true story. And this is exactly how it happened—so help me.

I was sitting in a stuffy hotel room in the French Lick Hotel, French Lick, Indiana, listening to Todd Storz, Bob Enoch, Chuck Balthorpe and other members of the AIMS group of independent stations exchange chatter, ideas, and jokes. Came a lull in the conversation and Larry Reilly, WTXL, Springfield, said: "I guess I shouldn't lay myself open like this, but I sure want to thank Norm Glenn for a fat 52-week contract from Household Finance."

Suddenly I was all ears. "Who, me?" I asked.

"Well, SPONSOR anyway," said Larry. "My last ad was clipped from the magazine by the client and he showed it to me when he came to Springfield. The contract he gave me totaled \$2600."

"I'll double that," said Sherm Marshall, WOLF, Syracuse. "The same guy clipped my page from SPONSOR and signed up for 52 weeks. Only my contract came to \$5200."

"Honest, fellers?" I asked.

"Honest," said Larry and Sherm.

"Nobody will believe this gold-dust-twin story," said I.

"Do you want my affidavit?" said Sherm.

"No," I said, "a letter will do."

Trade paper advertising is often regarded as an "intangible" purchase. But, WTXL, WOLF, KBTB, KPQ, WPAL and many other tv and radio stations will argue the point — at least with respect to SPONSOR, The magazine radio and tv advertisers use.