



The Maverick

50 YEARS OF MAKING GREAT RADIO
SEPTEMBER - 2013

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- John Hodowanic
- KMSU Publishes a Book
- Letters to KMSU
- Jandek back in Minnesota!
- Click and visit our social-media presence!



Greetings Listeners and Friends of KMSU,

It is with great anticipation that the staff, students and volunteers of KMSU approach our 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 28th at the Centennial Student Union Ballroom! There will be a 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. social hour, followed by dinner and a program at 7:00. We'll have you on your way home (or to the obligatory after-party) by 8:30. The program will be "KMSU Through the Years", co-hosted by Karen Wright and me. I think you'll find it entertaining and informative. Much of the material for this presentation was researched by former student, Chris Houck. He has written what I believe to be the most thorough and exhaustive history of KMSU ever. In addition to many of your friends and KMSU supporters, there will be some people at the event who were there at the very beginning of KMSU! We are very excited!

September also brought us some wonderful fall events. Rock Bend Folk Festival, Pride Fest and The Mahkato Wacipi Pow Wow, which took place last weekend. This remarkable event has been in existence since 1972, and serves as both a fun and educational celebration of American Indian culture, as well as a reconciliation of the hanging of the 38 Dakota over 150 years ago in what is now downtown Mankato. And, of course the MSU campus is alive again with the enthusiastic energy of our college students! If you've been tuning in, then you have heard some new voices on the Southern Minnesota News Project. I think they're doing a great job. We couldn't be more blessed, and we are so thankful for your support and encouragement.

Which reminds me that Pledge Drive will be coming along before you know it: November 6th – 15th. Lots of things going on between now and then, and having a busy schedule means we're doing good things! Two collaborative events coming in October with the Music Department: Slaid Cleaves in-concert at the Halling Recital Hall in the Earley Center for Performing arts @ 7:30 p.m. October 21st. Then just five days later on October 26th, it's the Debbie Davies Band in-concert at Hooligan's in the Madison East Center at 9:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online [here](#).

Thank you for helping KMSU make great radio for 50 years!

Sincerely,

Jim Gullickson "Gully"
Station Manager

KMSU
90.5 MGS.

JOHN HODOWANIC, FATHER OF KMSU?

John Hodowanic came to Mankato State Teacher's College in 1958 as the director of informative services from WGN radio in Chicago.

Prior to Hodowanic's arrival, **KMSU** served as a training laboratory for speech and broadcast students of Mankato State Teacher's College. Since 1939, students participated in what was called the Radio Workshop, but changed its name to the Radio Guild. Initially, students broadcast two radio shows out of the KYSM facilities in order to learn about the broadcasting industry as well as share information about events and issues surrounding MSTC.

By 1959, the school felt a need to have its own radio station. MSTC President, James Nickerson asked Hodowanic to manage operations of the Radio Guild and to acquire equipment for a radio station. Hodowanic at first pushed for more air time with KYSM, but under the encouragement of Nickerson, he acquired a radio console and other professional broadcast equipment



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which was placed on the fourth floor of the college's Old Main building.

January 7, 1963 saw the very first broadcast of **KMSU** after over a year of preparation. A College Reporter article from June 4, 1964 quoted Hodowanic as saying that the station is attempting to "give the listeners something they can not get anywhere else." In line with this objective, most of the music played was classical in nature.

Hodowanic continued to work at **KMSU**, and later as Assistant to President Nickerson until he left the college in 1977.

KMSU Publishes a Book



The Cover of KMSU's 50th Anniversary Book

In honor of its 50th Anniversary, **KMSU** is publishing a book called, "50 Years of Making Great Radio", written by summer intern Chris Houck. It is 50 pages long and includes history leading up to **KMSU's** first official radio broadcast on Jan. 7, 1963 through today. It also contains black and white photos from the past and new images of many of today's students and volunteer hosts.

Houck spent the majority of the summer holed up in the Memorial Library sifting through old documents in the archives and on microfiche. Additional information was provided by **KMSU** volunteers and former staff members.

The book describes many of the tumultuous times **KMSU** has gone through -- including being nearly shut down several times. It also highlights the incredible successes of the station over the years.

Those attending the upcoming **KMSU** Anniversary will receive their own copy of this spiral-bound, collector's book. The book was intentionally designed with spiral binding so that new history can be added through the years as it occurs.

Letters to KMSU



Hi,

I received an invitation to the 50th Anniversary dinner for KMSU radio. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend, since I'm needed for a local event. But I am duly gratified if somewhere in the Minnesota State University at Mankato database my name has been linked to the station.

I am shocked to find out I'm such an old timer. With this being the 50th anniversary, the station must have been only two-years-old when I got on the air as a freshman. It was student-run back then. At that time when people talked about the founding of the station, it seemed like ancient history to me. Fifty years later, it is!

If I may get a little nostalgic, in my sophomore year, I signed the station on at 8 AM on Saturdays. Sometimes I had to find a custodian to unlock the door to the station in the

"penthouse" of Old Main. Really pushing the limits of the station's programming, I came with my own records and played "oldies" rock 'n roll. I got a call one of those mornings from a young lady in one of the dorms who asked me how long I was going to keep playing those records. I thought, "Now I'm in trouble." I told her 11 o'clock. She said, "OK. I'm not going to breakfast until you're done." Wow, I had a dedicated listener. The story meshes with my favorite line that I used on KMSU in those days: "Music is our business and your pleasure."

My days in radio did not end with KMSU. I spent an enjoyable six years in commercial radio. I even built new studios for a station.

I don't know if I hold the reception record, but I received KMSU in Rockford, Illinois, one morning about 20 years ago when a local FM station lost power. To verify my reception I called KMSU and asked if they had been playing a Peter, Paul, and Mary song. The answer was, "Yes, and it's still playing."

Congratulations to KMSU. Fifty years old and like that record, it's still playing.

Ron Brey
Rockford, IL

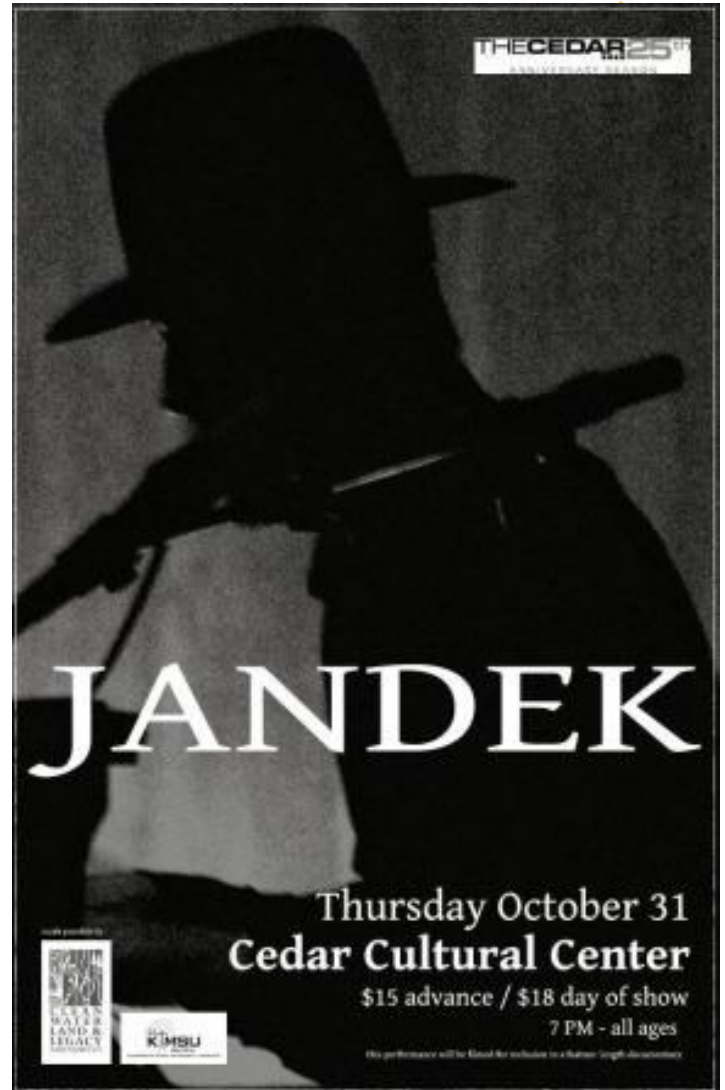
Jandek, Back in Minnesota Next Month

We're thrilled to announce that Jandek will be performing on Halloween at the Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis!

Like the Mankato performance last October, the band will be composed of Minnesota musicians. The set will be completely improvised, and what occurs in the moment will never happen again.

This is **LITERALLY** a one of a kind event, and we hope that you will be there. It's going to be a memorable night.

**Shy Boy Tim & Shelley
Shuffle Function**



KMSU's 50th Anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, 28th of September at the Centennial Student Union Ballroom starting at 6pm.



Big Ideas. Real-world thinking.

KMSU The Maverick
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