

## *An Ode to Michael Keith*

By

*Louise Benjamin*

*There is a method to his madness. . . .  
That's what the sages claim  
And I report with all due gladness  
Michael Keith's worthy of his fame.  
So, let's look upon the record – his books and in what way  
They begin our little saga, as we honor Mike today.*

*Issues – people – events -- are covered more than adequately  
In Mike and Robert Hilliard's *The Broadcast Century*,  
In it – they did but say  
We are most inter-est-ed in So-ci-et-tay  
And all political, social, and economic ways  
Broadcast's altered our lives from then – until today.*

*The world – the Americas and Europe, Africa – Asia – Oceania  
Oh, so many ways to program, finance and regulate the media  
All are explored – from broadcasting to narrow-cast  
In the book *Global Broadcasting Systems* – Oh, what a blast!*

*The folks within the trenches from Cousin Brucie to Larry King  
Wrote down their thoughts – each helpful idea. . . musing  
For his tome on radio. . . sound nuance  
Entitled -- *Broadcast Voice Performance**

*In *Talking Radio* Larry King and others expand  
On radio since television invaded broadcast land  
And *Sounds in the Dark* conveys the tale of nighttime radio  
When most of us are sleeping soundly and – oooooohh. . .*

*F-C-C documents – interviews and letters –  
Broadcast magazine and publications of the industry  
Tell within *The Hidden Screen* the diversity  
Of American Low Power-Tee-Vee.*

*Case law – statutes – administrative law  
Rap music – shock jocks – Don Imus and all?!  
Just a part of *Dirty Discourse*  
Subtitled “Sex and indecency in radio” – of course*

*Then -- Voices in the Purple Haze -- Underground Radio and the Sixties --  
Gay and Lesbian Broadcasting explored in the book, Queer Airwaves  
Native American voices tell of Signals in the air --  
All these tales Mike has brought us are beyond compare*

*I could not wrap up this poem, my humble little ditty  
Without mentioning one book whose subjects may not be pretty --  
Waves of Rancor on right-wing radio from Father Coughlin to today  
Reviews on radio and T-V talk shows and their influence upon so-ci-et- tay.*

*Nor could I leave without calling to your attentions  
His text -- The Radio Station -- now seven great editions*

*So is there more? -- Oh, undoubtedly  
As all of you will quickly see  
Mike's contributions to our field are numerous --  
Oh, so varied -- and sometimes even humorous.*

*We thank you, -- Mike -- for all you've done  
And let me say -- that I for one  
Appreciate most hum-ble-ey  
All that you have taught to me.*

*For whether you've used F-C-C reports  
Documents, letters, oral history, or torts  
You have shown us -- oh, so many ways  
That we can do our history-ays.*

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